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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

‘Now is the time for you to do the right thing’

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Supreme Court rules no warrants needed for cellphones

Cops can now search a suspect’s phone, but must follow strict rules PAGE 14

CBC trimming supper-hour news

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Birdman soars with Golden Globes nominations

Film about Broadway comeback leads pack, with some wild cards thrown in PAGE 34

The question

Mayors want to ask if you would support raising taxes to fund transit improvements in Metro Vancouver STORY, PAGE 4

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

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Mother charged with murder in eight-year-old girl's death

Teagan Batstone.
Father 'devastated' after daughter's body found in trunk of car

Six months ago, an international campaign called G(irls)20 posted a homemade video by the CEO of a Vancouver industrial-technology firm under the title "Fathers empowering daughters."

The photo slideshow, set to bright music, shows a father embracing a little blond girl with a pink flower barrette. Soon comes the photo of the slightly older girl, flanked by whiteboards covered in simple math equations, and finally, the girl is seen giggling from behind daddy's big desk.

"Teagan will not be me … she will be better than me," reads a caption that flashes onto the screen.

But that hope has now been taken from Gabe Batstone, whose daughter was found murdered on Wednesday in Surrey.

Lisa Batstone, her mother, is charged with second-degree murder in the eight-year-old's death.

Officers with B.C.'s Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said they released the girl's name, Teagan Batstone, to further the investigation.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pound said the child's body was discovered in the trunk of a car in an affluent area of Surrey.

On Thursday, Gabe Batstone tweeted a link to his tribute video, along with several new photographs, saying his family was devastated by the loss.

"Life will never be the same after losing my daughter to murder. Our family courts and thus we all failed #Teagan," he wrote in abbreviated social-media style.

The G(irls)20 campaign was created to encourage G20 leaders to invest in girls and women.

Batstone didn't respond to an interview request, tweeting publicly that he was "unable to talk without sobbing.

"But tomorrow I hope to share great memories of my love."

Police said the cause of the girl's death hasn't been confirmed and an autopsy will be conducted.

Lisa Batstone was scheduled to appear in a Surrey court on Thursday. Pound said the woman has no other children.

On Wednesday, RCMP said they responded to a report of a "suspicious circumstance" in South Surrey around 12:15 p.m. They discovered a body inside a vehicle. The death was handed to the homicide squad.

Police said they weren't answering questions Thursday to honour "the sensitive nature of this tragedy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eight-year-old Teagan Batstone is shown in an undated handout photo posted by her father, Gabe Batstone, on Twitter.
GABE BATSTONE/TWITTER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Building official renos house without permit, resigns

Vancouver's deputy chief building official has resigned after a whistleblower alerted senior management that she renovated her house without obtaining the necessary permits.

Carli Edwards, whose job it was to enforce the building bylaw, resigned after an investigation into a complaint that she breached the building bylaw. Edwards worked at the city for 17 years and is on leave until her resignation takes effect on Dec. 31.

City manager Penny Ballem received the complaint by email on Nov. 21, Ballem said Thursday.

The city immediately undertook a full investigation and discovered that Edwards did "minor renovations" to her house that required a permit or a number of permits that Edwards did not obtain, Ballem said.

Ballem would not say exactly what the renovations were, but considering the nature of Edwards' job, her disregard of the rules was a "very serious breach of her fiduciary responsibility."

By the numbers

6

Edwards negotiated a settlement with the city for six months salary. Edwards' salary was $137,676 in 2013, with an extra $750 in expenses.

"The city felt very clearly it made it impossible for her to continue in the job," Ballem said.

Permits are needed for renovations such as moving walls or partitions, moving electrical lines, building a garage or installing a residential suite.

Edwards was very cooperative with the investigation and admitted that the complaint was valid, Ballem said. The settlement reached reflects her tenure with the city and the fact that she took responsibility for her actions, Ballem said.

Ballem refused to say if the complaint came from a city employee or an external source, citing confidentiality under the city's whistleblowing policy.

Yet the policy, which was adopted in 2008, only applies to the protection of employees. It outlines how the identity of a whistleblower is protected during any investigation into serious misconduct and under the Freedom of Information Act. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Mayors propose increasing PST by 0.5% to support transit plan

Regional increase. Choice of referendum question passed but not unanimously

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Do you support a one-half percentage point increase to the Provincial Sales Tax in Metro Vancouver, dedicated to the Mayors' Transportation and Transit Plan, with independent audits and public reporting?

That is what the Mayor's Council on Regional Transportation is recommending be put before residents in a referendum on transit funding next year.

The mayors met in New Westminster on Thursday, where they officially approved a referendum question and chose a regional increase to the PST to fund its share of a 10-year, $7.5-billion transit plan.

"We need to get on with this," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. "This is quite a modest and practical plan compared to what cities south of the border and elsewhere are doing right now to make sure their transportation is more efficient. The plan in front of us, and the referendum question that will enable funding for the plan, is really about reducing traffic congestion first and foremost."

White Rock Mayor Wayne Baldwin said "it is unacceptable to do nothing" in a region expecting more than a million new residents by 2040.

The plan would see the region expand bus service, build a subway line along Broadway in Vancouver, build light rapid-transit lines in Surrey and replace the Pattullo Bridge.

The mayors expect the 0.5 per cent increase to generate more than $250 million each year and feel a regional sales tax (the first of its kind in Canada) is the fairest and most affordable option available.

"I think it is the lowest cost per household compared to the other options the Mayors' Council has looked at," said Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner. "I think it has created a balance between sectors of the economy and society."

Those comments were echoed by Delta Mayor Lois Jackson.

"From what I can see, it's fair across the households, the businesses, the visitors that come here, the drivers and the transit users," she said.

The 0.5 per cent increase to the PST will cost Metro Vancouver families $125 a year.

Other options would have hit families harder, they say. A $170 vehicle-registration fee would cost the average family $230 a year, as would a $40-per-tonne increase to the Carbon Tax.

The vote was not unanimous, however.

Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan called the provincially imposed referendum a "flawed process" when the mayors have no governance over TransLink.

"Without the ability to govern, I cannot support asking the public for more money," he said. "We don't set the priorities; we don't have the opportunity to do so. I can't guarantee the money will be used efficiently."

He also blasted the 10-year plan for not setting priorities and timelines and for relying on another $1.6 billion from the provincial government and $1.5 billion from the federal government. The provincial government has already indicated the plan is unaffordable, Corrigan added.

Corrigan's stance was supported by Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read and West Vancouver's Michael Smith.

The question will now be sent to the provincial government for approval.

If Minster of Transportation Todd Stone signs off, the mayors hope ballots will be mailed to voters in mid-March, with the referendum concluding sometime in April.

The legislative deadline to hold the referendum is June 30, 2015.

A bus makes its way down Granville Street on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Transportation Minister supports referendum

Transportation Minister Todd Stone
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO FILE

There may be some minor tweaks, but Transportation Minister Todd Stone said the region's mayors have "hit the mark for the most part" with their proposed transit referendum question of using a 0.5 per cent PST increase to help pay for a 10-year, $7.5-billion transit plan.

Stone's office received the question Thursday afternoon, and the minister said he will "review very carefully" the proposal and issue an official reply before the end of the year.

While the wording may be tweaked, Stone said he will not alter the mayors' plan, which includes rapid-transit projects in Vancouver and Surrey, a new Pattullo Bridge and expanded bus service region-wide.

"It's incumbent on the mayors to sell their vision," Stone said, adding the provincial government will not devote any resources to either of the emerging "Yes" or "No" campaigns.

He did, however, offer encouraging signs that the province will support the plan should voters approve the regional PST increase next year.

"The mayors have done a good job and rallied behind a series of priorities that the region can get behind," he said. "The province of British Columbia has made some very clear commitments."

The question requires provincial approval before the referendum, currently planned for mid-March via mail-in-ballot, can proceed.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Details

Stone said the province is committed to being a one-third funding partner for rapid-transit projects and the replacement for the Pattullo Bridge, provided the capital budgets have a strong business case.

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Police urge driver to surrender

Hit-and-run. Accident on Main Street claimed life of unidentified elderly Asian woman

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Vancouver police have a message for the driver involved in a hit-and-run that claimed the life of an elderly woman Wednesday night.

"It is only a matter of time before our investigators gather enough evidence needed to identify you," said Insp. Les Yeo. "I can't stress enough that, regardless of your reason for leaving the scene of this collision, now is the time for you to do the right thing and turn yourself in."

The crash happened shortly before 8 p.m. when the driver of a car travelling north on Main Street struck an elderly woman between Cordova and Powell Street.

The pedestrian was taken to hospital with serious head injuries and did not survive.

Leo said police have not yet been able to identify the victim. She is described as an older Asian woman with short white hair that was dyed brown and a scar on her left shoulder. She was wearing gold earrings.

At the time of the collision, she was also wearing a bright red down jacket, olive-coloured pants and was carrying a blue plaid umbrella.

Leo said police have evidence to support that the driver knew they had struck a person and still fled the scene.

There is a "considerable amount" of video surveillance in the area, said Leo, who urged the driver to get a lawyer and come forward to police.

"We are going to be relentless in hunting this person down and finding them," he said.

The death is Vancouver's fifth pedestrian fatality this year, compared to eight pedestrian fatalities in 2013.

Anyone with information about the identity of the victim or the hit-and-run is asked to call Vancouver police's collision investigation unit at 604-717-3012.

Another collision

Police seek witnesses in fatality

A 52-year-old woman died Wednesday night after being struck by a truck in New Westminster.

The woman was hit by a tractor-trailer at 8:40 p.m. on Brunette Avenue between Keary and East Columbia streets. Police believe the person driving may be unaware that they struck someone. They are asking for any potential witnesses or any truck drivers who think they may have been involved in a collision to contact them.

The woman has been identified. JEFF HODSON/METRO

Pedestrians cross Main Street on Thursday near the intersection where an elderly woman was struck in a fatal hit-and-run Wednesday night. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

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B.C. reverses approval for Trinity Western law school

The provincial government has reversed its decision to allow Trinity Western University's controversial law school to operate in B.C.

The school made the announcement on its website Thursday, with TWU president Bob Kuhn saying he is disappointed with the decision.

"It is difficult to conceive of a justifiable basis for the Minister (of Advanced Education Amrik Virk) to have revoked his approval of the school of law program," reads a statement from Kuhn.

"We remain committed to having a School of Law and now have to carefully consider all of our options."

The reversal marks the latest setback for the school, following an October referendum by the Law Society of B.C. to overturn its board's accreditation of the school.

Trinity Western's School of Law would be the first private, faith-based law school in Canada, but it has been met by strong opposition from gay and lesbian rights groups over a "community covenant" that all TWU students are required to sign.

The covenant mandates, among other Christian values, that students refrain from sex except in the context of a heterosexual marriage.

The proposed law school — slated to open in 2016 — had previously received approval from both the Federation of Law Societies of Canada and the province of British Columbia to operate, but the provincial approval has now been rescinded.

Law societies in New Brunswick, Alberta and Saskatchewan have voted to accredit the school, while those in Ontario and Nova Scotia have voted against recognizing it.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

The provincial government has reversed its decision to allow Trinity Western University's law school to operate in B.C. COURTESY TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

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Policing Oppenheimer Park 'tent city' cost city $200,000

Vancouver Police Department. Criminal offences at park included firearm possession

NEAL HALL
The Canadian Press
exclusively for Metro

The final tally of policing for the three-month occupation of Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver last summer was $200,000, the Vancouver police said this week.

"The Vancouver Police Department incurred costs of approximately $200,000 in relation to safety and security concerns surrounding the Oppenheimer Park encampment which ran from July 17 through Oct. 16, 2014," Vancouver Police media relations officer Sgt. Randy Fincham said, responding to a query from Metro.

The encampment ended when a court injunction was finally enforced.

City workers dismantled the tents and other structures, with the assistance of police and firefighters.

Police arrested five people who allegedly refused to leave the park and attempted to interfere with city workers dismantling the tents, but they were later released without charge.

An affidavit filed in court on Oct. 6 by Vancouver police Insp. Howard Chow disclosed: "Overtime policing costs attributable to the Park are close to $100,000" up to Oct. 3.

Chow's affidavit estimated about 130 people were staying overnight in the park and there had been numerous liquor infractions as well as criminal offences involving drugs and possession of firearms.

One firearm was seized on Oct. 4, which had been stolen two days earlier during a break and enter, Chow said.

The senior officer added individuals with mental health issues were a challenge to police and other officials, and fights, public drunkenness and drug use increased as the occupation continued.

"Further, Inspector Chow deposes there is reason to believe that evidence of a homicide in another jurisdiction is or may be secreted in a tent in the park," B.C. Supreme Court Justice Jennifer Duncan noted in her decision to grant the injunction applied for by the Vancouver Parks Board.

Vancouver police did not respond to Metro's query whether the suspected evidence of a homicide was ever found.

Days before the encampment was shut down, a 69-year-old man, Joerg Brylla, was found dead in his tent. Foul play was ruled out.

Firefighters also expressed serious concerns about open fires in the encampment and the use of propane tanks for cooking, as well as candles being used in tents.

Parks board bylaws stipulate that no camping is allowed in public parks in Vancouver and no one is allowed to enter or remain in the park between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The parks board had served notice on the campers to vacate the park two days after the first few tents were set up in the park, informing campers that were in breach of bylaws.

But the campers did not vacate and the encampment grew as the dry summer continued.

Malcolm Bromley, general manager of the Vancouver Park Board, estimated about 200 tents had been set up in the park.

Bromley said in his affidavit filed in court that the Park Board does not tolerate anyone sleeping in any parks under its control. When city staff find someone sleeping in a park, the remedy is to react the next day and attempt to work with the person to find alternative accommodation, he said.

Often the tent is removed voluntarily but if it is not, park board staff step in and assist removing the tent, Bromley said. He described Oppenheimer Park as "the backyard of the Downtown Eastside."

A man is arrested at Oppenheimer Park on Oct. 17, 2014 in Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Cancelled events

The tent occupation of the park, which became a protest against homelessness in the city, resulted in several community events being cancelled, including a summer carnival for residents of the Downtown Eastside and the annual Powell Street Festival, a celebration of Japanese culture that is deeply ingrained in the history of the area surrounding the park, once known as Japantown.

- **The festival was forced to move to nearby Alexander Street and Jackson Avenue.**

Put forward motion

NPA pushes for city ombudsperson

Just because the Non-Partisan Association didn't win the election doesn't mean it intends to give up on its pitch for an ombudsperson at City Hall.

NPA Coun. George Affleck has put forward a motion asking the city to establish an independent office of the ombudsperson to deal with citizen disputes with the city.

He wants staff to look into global best practices to determine how much the office would cost and how many employees it might need.

Such an office is needed due to the unprecedented number of lawsuits filed by residents against the city over the past couple years and an increase in contact from frustrated citizens, Affleck's motion states.

But without an NPA majority, Affleck's motion might fall by the wayside if Vision Vancouver votes to defeat it at next week's council meeting. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Vancouver schools

Robertson wants to double size of breakfast program

Vision Vancouver is following through on its election promise to expand the breakfast program at Vancouver schools.

Mayor Gregor Robertson will propose at the council meeting next week that the city use $400,000 from its 2015 budget to double the size of the Vancouver School Board's breakfast program to serve 1,300 students daily.

As it stands, the school board is $60,000 short annually for its program that only feeds 650 kids at 12 elementary schools.

One in five children entering kindergarten in the city come from low-income families.

The Non-Partisan Association also campaigned on a promise to feed the children, although it planned to fund the program with donations instead of government money. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Surrey

Suspect arrested after man's body found in vehicle

A 33-year-old man has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of another man whose body was found in a vehicle in Surrey, B.C.

Randeep Singh Match has been arrested in what police are calling a targeted attack.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pound says 35-year-old Tarsem Shane Dhaliwal's family reported him missing on Jan. 19, two days before his body was discovered.

Pound says evidence led investigators to believe that foul play was involved.

Match was taken into custody in Abbotsford on Wednesday.

Pound says the two men knew each other but a motive for the murder is not being released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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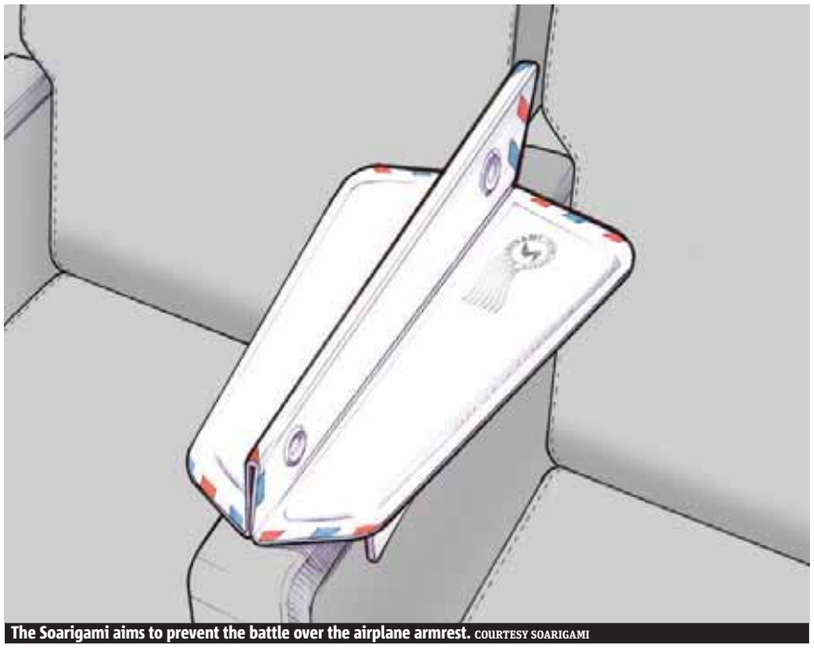
Elbow-war ceasefire: B.C. man invents device to end in-flight armrest battles



The Soarigami aims to prevent the battle over the airplane armrest. COURTESY SOARIGAMI

Good thing from bad situation. Inventor Chang said he got the idea after enduring an air travel nightmare in the middle seat

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

A B.C. man has invented a device that he claims could finally bring an end to in-flight elbow wars.

Called Soarigami, the plastic divider attaches to an existing armrest and doubles the usable space, preventing the possibility of awkward elbow rubbing with strangers.

"We're trying to make flying less stressful and just kind of lighten the mood a little bit," company co-founder Arthur Chang told Metro.

When it launches, Soarigami — which takes its name from Japanese words sora (sky) and gami (grace) — will take on the form of a simple, thin and sleek paper airplane-inspired origami design.

Chang, who grew up in Vancouver but now calls Dallas home, said he came up with the idea while trapped in an air-travel nightmare: He was stuck in the middle seat.

"The two people beside me were trying to jostle for the armrests," he said. "And I thought, 'There's definitely a way to make this better.'"

Chang said his initial prototype was admittedly "clunky." That's where Soarigami co-founder Grace Lee Chang came in, using her architecture background to come up with a new design: an airmail envelope folded into a paper airplane.

Mission

"We're trying to make flying less stressful and just kind of lighten the mood a little bit."

Soarigami co-founder Arthur Chang

Chang said the concept came about during what felt like a fruitless brainstorming session spent trying to sketch new designs. At the end, he said Grace folded her piece of paper into an airplane and launched it in frustration.

"When that paper airplane landed, that sparked the idea that this origami thing could actually have some legs," he said.

Buzz is already building on social media about Soarigami. Since launching the website and an animated video, complete with a catchy song, the "Annoying Passenger Anthem," Chang said the company's pre-order list has taken off.

"The world has embraced it," he said. "It's exciting but obviously that puts the pressure on us to really get this product out and do it right."

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Happy-go-lucky CEOs boost stock prices, UBC study finds

Virgin Group founder Sir Richard Branson appears at Chapters on Robson Street in Vancouver in 2012. A new study from the University of B.C. suggests the disposition of happy-go-lucky CEOs, like Branson, can have an impact on their stock price. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

New data. University researchers sampled 121 CEOs and CFOs

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Investors, take note.

New research from the University of B.C. suggests chief executive officers who have a happy-go-lucky disposition when discussing company performance can create an uptick in stock price.

The findings suggest that investors should be aware of human factors at play when listening to reports on a firm's performance and making investment decisions, said Jenny Zhang, an assistant professor in UBC's Sauder School of Business and co-author of the study.

"Some managers tend to be happier than others and that is reflected in the language they use," she told Metro.

"What's interesting is we found that the market seems to react to that."

For the study, researchers sampled 121 CEOs and CFOs, or chief financial officers, all of which had worked for at least two different firms for at least a year each.

Researchers examined transcripts of quarterly earnings reports delivered by managers in conference calls and counted the frequency of positive and negative words used.

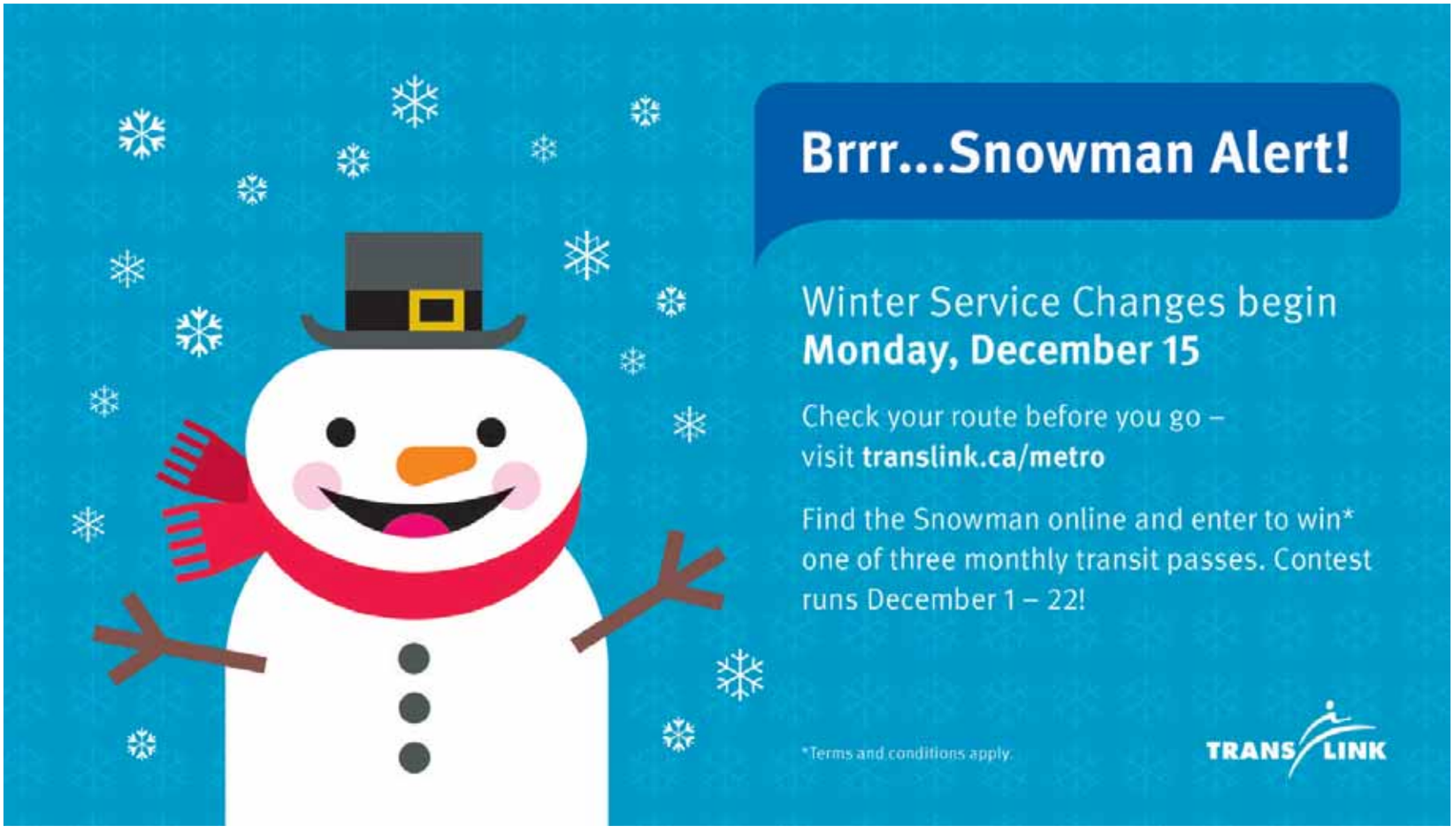
They then compared the information with corporate performance and resulting market activity, controlling for instances where positive language was used strategically with announcements like equity offerings and mergers and acquisitions.

The findings reveal that managers who used optimistic language were more likely to have a positive influence on their company's stock price, said Zhang.

Researchers also found that CEOs tend to be more positive than CFOs, and that managers who began their careers in a recession tended to use less optimistic language, she said.

Men also tended to be more optimistic in their delivery than women, the researchers found, as did managers involved with charity work.

"For investors, they just need to be aware of those components of (vocal) tone and make their investment decisions accordingly," said Zhang.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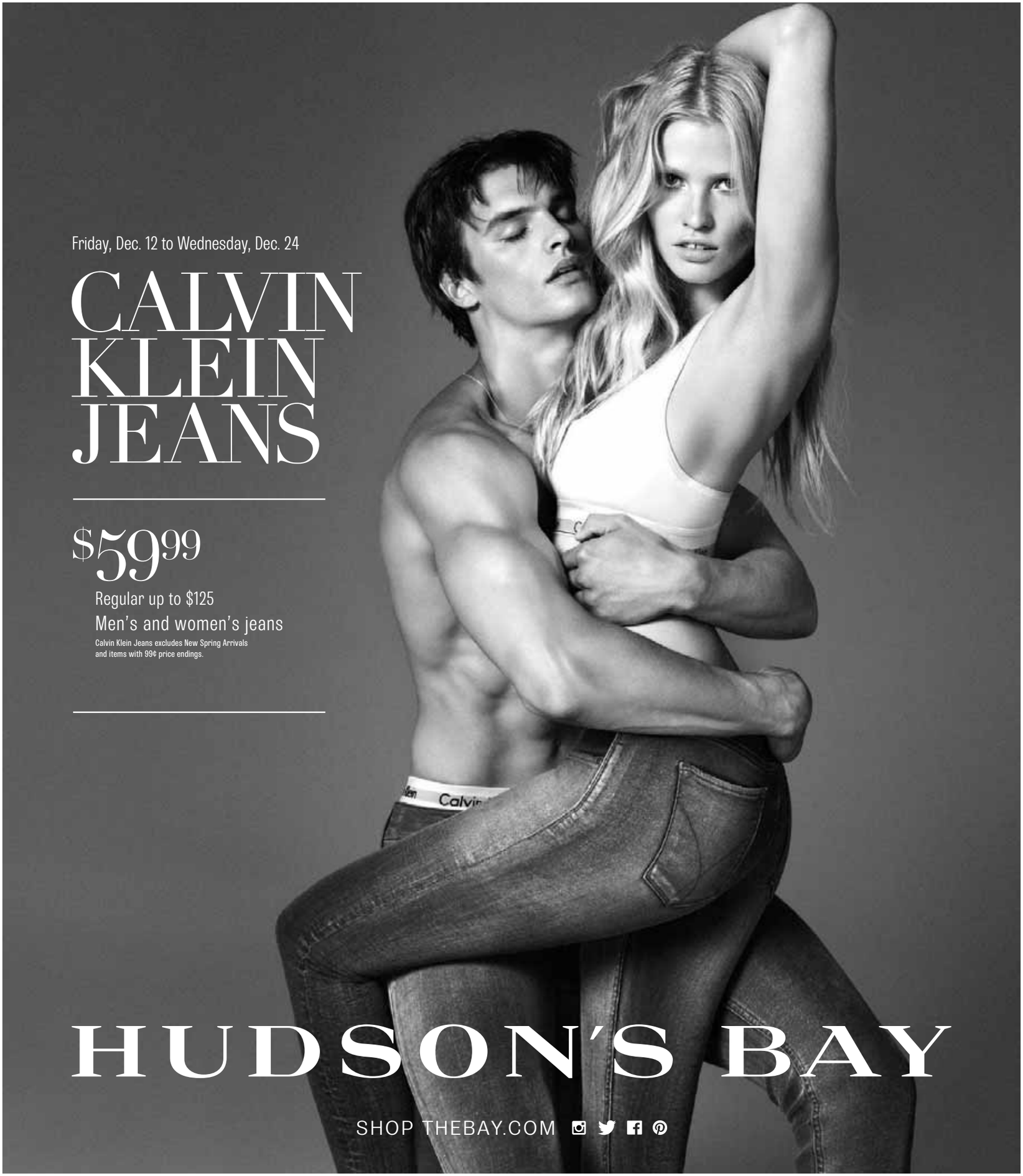
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Jury in Magnotta trial likely to be sequestered Monday

Diran Lin, father of Jun Lin, arrives to hear the closing arguments at the murder trial for Luka Rocco Magnotta on Thursday in Montreal. The Crown has completed its final arguments at the trial and is asking the jury to find Magnotta guilty of first-degree murder in the slaying and dismemberment of Jun Lin. The jurors have been sent home until Monday, when the judge will give them their instructions before they are sequestered.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOC imposes rules on cop cellphone searches

Privacy at issue.
Top court rules police have some rights to search cellphones without warrants, but must follow rules

A divided Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday that police can conduct a limited search of suspect's cellphone without obtaining a search warrant, regardless of password protection — but they must follow strict rules.

The precedent-setting ruling, reached by a narrow 4-3 margin, found that the search must be related directly to the circumstances of a person's arrest and that investigators must keep detailed records of the search.

In a dissenting opinion, the three opposing justices said the police should be required to obtain a search warrant in all cases, except rare instances where there is a danger to the public, police or the evidence itself.

It is the first Supreme Court ruling on cellphone privacy, a 21st-century issue that has already spawned a series of divergent lower-court decisions.

The high court dismissed the appeal of the 2009 armed robbery conviction of Kevin Fearon, who argued that police violated his charter rights when they searched his cellphone without a warrant after he'd robbed a Toronto jewelry kiosk.

The court agreed that the police had in fact breached Fearon's rights, but said the evidence against him on his cellphone should not be excluded.

"The police simply did something that they believed on reasonable grounds to be lawful and were proven wrong, after the fact, by developments in the jurisprudence," Justice Thomas Cromwell wrote for the majority.

Cromwell said the court was trying to strike a balance between the demands of effective law enforcement and the public's right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under Section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"In my view, we can achieve that balance with a rule that permits searches of cellphones incident to arrest, provided that the search ... is strictly incidental to the arrest and that the police keep detailed notes of what has been searched and why."

Fearon's phone had no password protection, but the justices said whether or not a cellphone is locked makes no difference to a user's expectation of privacy.

However, the ruling failed to satisfy some privacy rights advocates.

Raji Mangat, a lawyer with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, said the decision was a disappointment because the court failed to strike the right balance between privacy rights and law enforcement.

She said that forcing police to get a search warrant "would not be an onerous requirement." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police guidelines

The ruling laid out detailed criteria to guide police.

- The arrest must be lawful, and the search must be "truly incidental to the arrest" and based on a purpose consistent with "valid law enforcement," meaning the protection of the police, accused or the public.
- The ruling also said a phone can subjected to a warrantless search if police take "detailed notes" of what they searched and how.

Top court to hear challenge on Khadr status

Omar Khadr THE CANADIAN PRESS

A decision by the Supreme Court of Canada to hear the federal government's challenge of Omar Khadr's youth status stunned his lawyers on Thursday, although not much would have changed for him if the decision had gone the other way.

Khadr had already agreed to remain in a federal prison even though Alberta's top court had ruled unanimously he should be deemed a young offender and moved to a provincial facility.

"I'm stunned," Nate Whitling, one of Khadr's lawyers, said from Edmonton minutes after the high court said it would hear the case.

Now in his 12th year in custody, Khadr is serving out an eight-year sentence handed down by a U.S. military commission in 2010 after he pleaded guilty to five war crimes, including murder. Khadr was 15 years old when the offences occurred in Afghanistan in 2002. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ottawa NGO looks to raise $60K for literacy

The Ebola epidemic has emptied classrooms in Liberia and kept students cooped up at home for months.

So an Ottawa NGO is preparing more than 10,000 home-schooling kits to help elementary-school kids learn to read while they are stuck indoors.

CODE — a charity supporting literacy in Canada and worldwide — has been working to get Liberia's education system back on its feet since the disastrous effects of the 15-year, on-again-off-again civil war that killed about 300,000 people in the country and in Sierra Leone.

When the Ebola crisis broke out about 10 months ago, the country and education system were "very ill-prepared to address this newest crisis," said CODE executive director Scott Walter.

About 5,000 primary schools have closed across the country.

Quoted

"At least with the civil war they knew who the enemy was. They could see the enemy."

CODE executive director Scott Walter, on the hardship Africans face in their fight against Ebola

"At least with the civil war, they knew who the enemy was. They could see the enemy," he said. "With Ebola, it's an unseen enemy and it could come from anywhere."

CODE has partnered with the WE-CARE Foundation to create "Home School Kits of Hope" filled with children's books, school supplies and information pamphlets on Ebola.

So far CODE has raised about $40,000 for home-school kits in Liberia, with the goal of raising $60,000 by Dec. 24. **LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA**

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A pilot positions a CF-18 Hornet at CFB Cold Lake on Oct. 21. A market analysis into which fighter jet could replace the CF-18s tells the Harper government it can postpone a decision and keep flying the current fleet until 2025.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Replacing the CF-18 can wait until 2025

F-35 debate. While the government can delay its decision, it must still quickly decide what will replace the aging jets: Report

A long-awaited market analysis into which fighter jet could replace the CF-18s tells the Harper government it can postpone a decision and keep flying the current fleet until 2025, but it will cost roughly $400 million.

The report by a panel of independent experts, part of a package of documents put before the federal cabinet last summer, warns the aging jets should not be flown much past that date because it would be an unacceptable, costly risk.

All of the research was done to help the Harper government decide whether to purchase the F-35 stealth fighter or hold an open competition.

"No decision has been made on the purchase of replacements for the CF-18s," Public Works Minister Diane Finley told the Commons prior to the release of the panel report and annual F-35 cost assessment.

Earlier this year, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson's office announced the CF-18s would get life extension upgrades to keep them flying for another 11 years, but no details on cost or risks were released.

The panel's analysis looked at four different fighter jets and found each is equally capable of meeting Canada's needs, although the Harper government and the air force have insisted for years the F-35 was the only choice to replace the CF-18s.

The report says the CF-18's relevance will decline rapidly after 2025 and will cost $1.5 billion in maintenance leading up to 2030. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Replacing the CF-18

In order to smoothly phase out Canada's fleet of CF-18s, replacements will have to be chosen by 2020, according to the panel's report.

- **The big decision.** The federal government would need at least three years to run an open competition, while F-35 orders need three years' lead time according to the jet's manufacturer.
- **Maintenance costs.** While the lifespan of the CF-18 can be extended, pushing it toward 2030 would be costly, with the reliability of key systems declining quickly.

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Calgarian claims he's made over 15,000 requests through 311 for graffiti removal

He strolls inner-city sidewalks, pausing every so often to snap a photo of graffiti. Then, the man who calls himself Dr. G jots down the co-ordinates of his latest find and any additional details he believes will aid by-law officers with finding the tag when he logs it through the city's 311 service.

Dr. G says city managers have told him he averages 7,800 requests to remove graffiti annually — he figures his total complaint count to date is as high as 15,000.

"I think Calgary's a better place without graffiti, let's just put it that way," he said in an interview Thursday.

Dr. G provided his real name to Metro, but requested it not be printed, fearing backlash from perturbed business owners and urban graffiti enthusiasts alike. There are some who often find themselves on the receiving end of Dr. G's graffiti gripes that have come to learn his true identity, including Kevin Schneider with City Print Distribution Inc. The company he works for delivers magazine and print publications in the city — including Metro — and the boxes where such items are stored are common targets for taggers. Schneider is not a big fan of the so-called doctor, stating he takes things too far and abuses a system set up in good faith by the city. "It's harassment ... it's coming to the point where, yes, we'll get to them (the tags), we just don't have to do it as quickly as we like.

"It can't all be on (Dr.G's) schedule." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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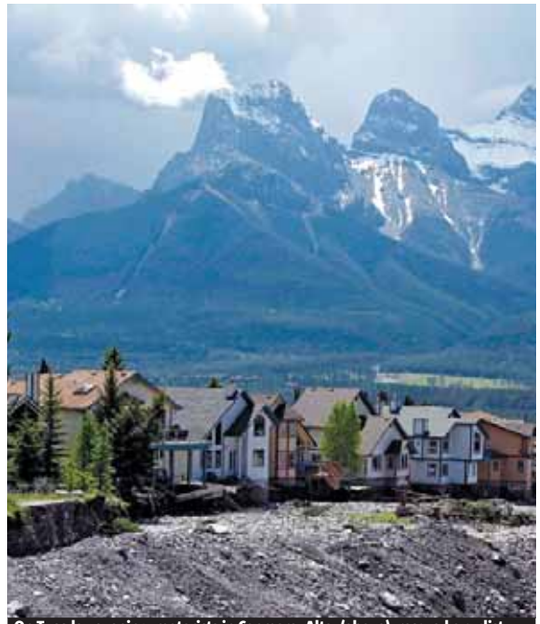

On Tuesday evening, motorists in Canmore, Alta. (above), rescued a cyclist from under a truck. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Passersby save trapped cyclist

Canmore, Alta.
Crash witnesses band together to lift truck off pinned cyclist

JEREMY NOLAIS
Metro in Calgary

As he peered under the truck, Brad Blois could hardly make out the pinned cyclist.

But he could hear the moans.

A minute prior, a Ford Ranger had come up alongside and struck the two-wheeled traveller at the intersection of Canmore's Bow Valley Trail and Railway Avenue West. The momentum sent the cyclist sliding underneath the vehicle and he was pinned by the engine.

Numerous motorists witnessed the crash, which occurred around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday night, and they raced to the scene.

"His (the cyclist's) feet weren't even hanging out under the bumper, he was right under there," recalled Blois, who runs a cab company in the town west of Calgary. "His face had lacerations all over it and he was just moaning.

"He sounded like he was in pain and he couldn't breathe."

Six initial witnesses — three men and three women — began attempts to move the rig off the man, but it proved too heavy.

Then, a bus rolled up across the road and more strapping lads stepped off.

"I said, 'I need strong guys… get on the truck, grab a part, we've got to lift it,'" Blois said. "They came over, there was probably nine or 10 of us, and we lifted it up … the women pulled him straight out."

Blois said EMS arrived on scene seven or eight minutes later and rushed the cyclist to hospital. He was eventually airlifted to Calgary, but RCMP have since indicated that he's in stable condition.

Blois paid credit to his fellow rescuers.

"If it was later at night and there had just been one person there, there would have been nothing they could do and if the driver had tried to back off of him, I hate to say it, but it would have tore him apart," he said.

"I can't explain what it was like to see everybody pull together and do something like that. Just the urgency of the moment, with that fella needing their help, it was a miracle."

Quoted

"Just the urgency of the moment, with that fella needing their help, it was a miracle."

Brad Blois, crash witness

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Indonesia

Prosecutor opposes bid to dismiss case against Canadian teacher

The prosecution in the case of a Canadian teacher facing allegations he sexually abused a kindergarten student at an international school in Indonesia has been in court to oppose a call by the defence for the case to be dismissed.

The brother of teacher Neil Bantleman of Burlington, Ont., says the prosecutor presented briefs Thursday in opposition to what is known as an application for exception.

Reports say an application for exception seeks a ruling from the court that a case should be thrown out.

Guy Bantleman said in an email to The Canadian Press that the court is to make a decision Tuesday on the matter.

He also said the British ambassador came to the courthouse to meet his brother to assure him he has the "support of the British Embassy in Jakarta and that they are monitoring the case closely."

Neil Bantleman and teaching assistant Ferdinant Tjiong, who have been in custody since July, are being tried separately in closed-door sessions. Both have maintained their innocence as do fellow teachers and the principal at the Jakarta International School.

Supporters of Bantleman and Tjiong say the student, who was six at the time the alleged abuse occurred, was subject to suggestive questioning by inexperienced police.

The abuse was alleged to have happened at a room in the school during teaching hours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Publication ban case adjourned

Dartmouth. Man charged with releasing the name of a sexual assault victim granted time to review penalties

The lawyer for a man charged with violating a publication ban in a sexual assault trial in Halifax has been granted time to hear what penalties the Crown is considering.

Judge Patrick Curran granted the adjournment Thursday in Dartmouth provincial court, requiring David Winslow Sparks to return on Jan. 12.

Sparks, 62, was charged in September after police alleged he posted on social media the name of the victim in the sexual assault case. The identity of the victim is protected by a publication ban.

In July defence lawyer Lyle Howe was sentenced to three years in prison after being found guilty by a jury of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman in March 2011. Howe's lawyer has filed an appeal in that case.

Sparks is represented by Howe's wife, Laura McCarthy, who is also a defence lawyer.

McCarthy said outside court she's unclear what potential penalty the Crown is seeking and needs that information before advising her client on a plea.

"We adjourned … to allow time to speak with the Crown and see what kind of resolution can be reached," she said.

"You don't want somebody making an uninformed decision." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario scraps WWII-era law used at Toronto's G20

G20 summit protesters clash with riot police in downtown Toronto on Saturday, June 26, 2010. A Second World War law used by police to make mass arrests during the G20 summit was officially scrapped Thursday and replaced with new legislation. The Public Works Protection Act was secretly revived by the Liberal government prior to the G20, and then used by police to "kettle" or detain large groups in the streets, and to arrest 1,100 people during the summit. Ombudsman Andre Marin concluded it was opportunistic and inappropriate to use a "war measure" to give police extra authority, and said police compounded matters by misrepresenting the reach of their new powers during the G20. The law designed to protect electrical generating facilities from Nazi saboteurs in the 1940s was replaced by a new bill that enhances security at courthouses, electrical generating stations and nuclear power plants. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UEFA president Michel Platini, right, and the mayor of Ploegsteert, Gilbert Deleu, listen to speeches after unveiling a First World War Christmas Truce monument in Ploegsteert, Belgium, on Thursday. VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christmas Truce commemorated

Soccer. Moment of WWI peace, goodwill memorialized by monument in Belgium

On the side of a windswept field covered with scorpion weed, a simple wooden cross marks a unique event in soccer history.

At its base, amid wreaths of poppies, lie a smattering of balls and various club pennants, all in remembrance of the Christmas Truce of 1914.

A century ago on Christmas Day, German and British enemies left their World War I trenches and headed into no man's land in a few scattered locations on the Western Front for an unofficial truce among soldiers. Some eyewitness accounts say they were highlighted by something as remarkable as a few soccer kick-abouts.

"Suddenly a Tommy came with a football," wrote Lt. Johannes Niemann of Germany, referring to a British soldier. "Teams were quickly established for a match on the frozen mud, and the Fritzes beat the Tommies 3-2."

If not fully fledged matches, other soldier's diaries and various reports also spoke of balls being kicked about in friendship.

"A huge crowd was between the trenches. Someone produced a little rubber ball so of course a football match started," Lt. Charles Brockbank of Britain's Cheshire Regiment wrote in his diary, which is part of the Greater Game exhibit at the National Football Museum in Manchester, U.K.

The proponents of the sport have cherished that day as historic proof that there is little that can better bridge man's differences than soccer.

This Christmas, the British supermarket chain Sainsbury's has taken the idea and turned it into a blockbuster ad, showing opposing soldiers living the truce amid a soccer match at the centre of the heart-tugging, some say sanitized, view of that Great War day.

It is that unique mood of brotherhood that Michel Platini, the president of the Union of European Football Associations, planned to underscore on Thursday when he unveiled a Christmas Truce monument on the former battlegrounds known as Flanders Fields in western Belgium, scene of some of the most horrendous killing.

"Together, they performed simple acts of reconciliation, culminating in the discovery of a shared language: football," Platini wrote to European Union leaders early this year.

For those involved, it was most of all a yearning for a sense of normalcy, however momentarily, that pushed them over the edge of their trenches, unarmed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Push for two states

France's Senate votes to recognize Palestinian state

France's Senate has narrowly approved a resolution asking the government to recognize a Palestinian state, in hopes that it could be a tool in negotiations for lasting Mideast peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian state

Israel angered by Irish decision

Israel has slammed the decision of the Irish parliament to adopt a non-binding resolution supporting an independent Palestinian state. Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon expressed disappointment Thursday at the decision.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First time in 23 years

Air Serbia to fly between Zagreb, Belgrade

Air Serbia says it will resume flights between Belgrade and Zagreb after a 23-year break. Flights between the Serbian and Croatian capitals were discontinued in 1991.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong police destroy protest camp

209 arrested. Activists taken away by police swear fight for fair elections isn't over

Police officers take away a protester at the occupied area outside government headquarters in Hong Kong Thursday. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong authorities demolished a protest camp Thursday at the heart of the city's 2-1/2-month pro-democracy movement but scores of activists taken away by police vowed their fight for genuine elections wasn't over.

Hundreds of police officers armed with chain saws and bolt cutters methodically dismantled barricades, tore down canopies and removed banners in a daylong operation to shut the protest site sprawled across a normally busy highway next to the specially administered Chinese city's business district.

Police said 209 people were arrested for unlawful assembly and obstructing police officers.

The operation was peaceful and unmarked by the violent clashes seen in previous confrontations between protesters and police. Traffic started flowing on the road by mid-evening.

The student-led protesters had occupied streets in the Admiralty neighbourhood and two other areas since Sept. 28 to protest Beijing's restrictions on the first election of the city's top leader.

The campaign, which began as a separate protest led by student and activist groups, got a jump-start when police fired dozens of tear gas rounds on a group of demonstrators flooding into the area. The resulting movement polarized public opinion and, activists said, marked the start of an era of civil disobedience in Hong Kong. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A flood can't stop these kids' fun

Aidan Perez, left, 12, and Christopher Dow, right, 11, ride a shopping cart in the flooded parking lot of a shopping centre Thursday in Healdsburg, Calif. A powerful storm churned through Northern California Thursday, knocking out power to tens of thousands and delaying commuters while soaking the region with needed rain. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Likely extremist attack

At least 31 killed in Nigeria blasts

Activists said at least 31 people were killed and several more injured Thursday when twin explosions rocked downtown Jos in central Nigeria in what appears to be the latest attack by Islamic extremists.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland

Russian activity up in Baltic: minister

Poland's defence minister, Tomasz Siemoniak, on Thursday complained of "unprecedented" activity by Russia's navy and air force in the Baltic Sea region in recent days.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goal won't be met

Controlling Ebola will take months

The U.N. Ebola chief said Thursday it will take several months before the outbreak is under control, making it clear the World Health Organization's goal of isolating 100 per cent of Ebola cases by Jan. 1 won't be met. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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HUDSON'S BAY

CIA chief recounts horrors of Sept. 11 in defence of tactics

Senate torture report. Says CIA's interrogation practices did not lead to a safer America

CIA Director John Brennan defended his agency Thursday from accusations in a Senate report that it used inhumane interrogation techniques against terrorist suspects with no security benefits to the U.S. But he stopped short of claiming that the tough methods saved thousands of American lives.

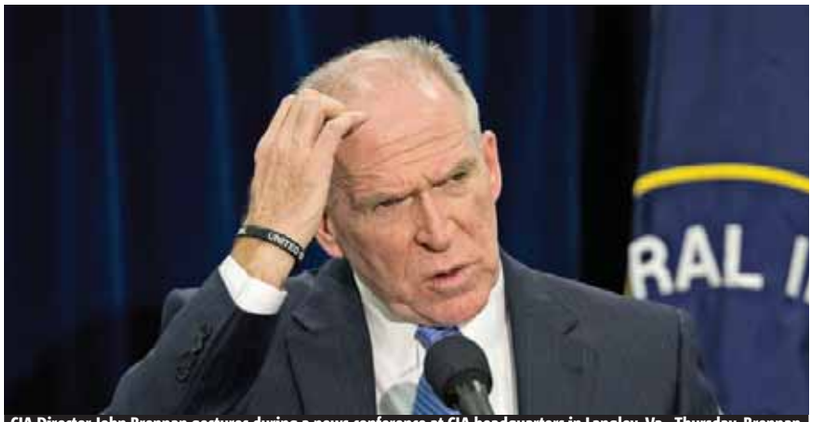
Brennan conceded that it is impossible to know whether the detainees provided crucial information because of the "enhanced interrogation techniques." He said the cause-and-effect relationship is "unknown and unknowable." He conceded unauthorized and in some cases abhorrent methods were used against captives, but asserted the CIA "did a lot of things right" in a time when there were "no easy answers."

Brennan opened a rare news conference by recounting the horrors of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, his agency's determination to prevent another such assault and the fact that CIA officers were the first to fight and early to die in the Afghanistan war.

His remarks were part of a campaign by the CIA and several of its past leaders to discredit a five-year Senate investigation into the CIA's harrowing interrogation practices after 9-11, concerned that the historical record may define them as torturers instead of patriots and expose them to legal action around the world.

The Senate intelligence committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a UN special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CIA Director John Brennan gestures during a news conference at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., Thursday. Brennan defended his agency from accusations in a Senate report that it used inhumane interrogation techniques against terrorist suspects with no security benefits to the nation. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summoned

Closing Guantanamo

Fed up with the stalled progress toward closing the Guantanamo Bay detention centre, President Barack Obama summoned top administration officials to the White House for an unusual meeting last month to make it clear he wanted action. The president addressed the team at length, emphasizing why he wants to shut down the detention facility for terrorism suspects, according to administration officials familiar with the meeting, which wasn't on Obama's public schedule.

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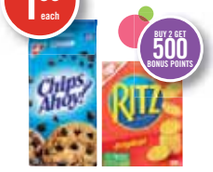

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In this Nov. 30 photo, Cuban fans sing during a hip-hop concert in Havana. Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that a U.S. agency infiltrated Cuba's hip-hop scene, recruiting unwitting rappers to spark a youth movement against the government. RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cuban rap stars used by U.S. agency

USAID. American agency used Cuba's hip-hop scene to undermine the state, create youth advocates for social change: AP

Over two years a U.S. agency secretly infiltrated Cuba's underground hip-hop movement, recruiting unwitting rappers to spark a youth movement against the government, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The idea was to use Cuban musicians "to break the information blockade" and build a youth network seeking "social change," documents show.

The program is laid out in documents involving Creative Associates International, a Washington, D.C., contractor paid millions of dollars to undermine Cuba's communist government. The thousands of pages include contracts, emails, preserved chats, budgets, expense reports, PowerPoints, photographs and passports.

Contractors involved in the hip-hop operation would recruit scores of Cuban musicians for projects disguised as cultural initiatives but really aimed at boosting their visibility and encouraging a movement of fans to challenge the government.

One target was Los Aldeanos, a hip-hop group frustrated by official pressure and widely respected by Cuban youth for its hard-hitting lyrics.

Creative used a Panama front company and a Lichtenstein bank to hide the money trail from Cuba, where thousands of dollars went to fund a TV program starring Los Aldeanos. It would be distributed on DVDs to circumvent Cuba's censors.

Then the Colombian rock star Juanes announced a September 2009 concert in the heart of Havana. Creative managers held a two-day strategy session on how to persuade Juanes to let Los Aldeanos perform with him.

They never shared the stage, but Juanes publicly thanked the rappers after the concert. The contractors believed this measure of public support would help protect the group against the government; however, Juanes' spokesman John Reilly said Wednesday the concert had no political agenda, and that Juanes had no knowledge of what the other artists did.

About a month later Los Aldeanos' frontman, Aldo Rodriguez, was detained for illegal possession of a computer.

Creative contractors at one point contacted a sex education institute run by the daughter of President Raul Castro, Mariela, who was contacted to be part of Serbia's EXIT Festival, despite organizers — such as Serbian contractor Rajko Bozic — also running the anti-Castro hip-hop operation.

Cuban officials ultimately discovered what was going on once contractors paid $15,000 to underwrite a music festival run by singer Pablo Milanese.

Over the next four months Bozic was detained coming into Havana with a potentially incriminating USB stick, generating anxiety among contractors. Bozic cut his trip short and told contractors he wouldn't be returning any time soon.

In August 2010 Los Aldeanos took the stage at an independent music festival and criticized the government and police. The group later moved to South Florida, citing the government was making it difficult for them to work.

On six occasions a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contractor said Cuban authorities detained or interrogated people involved in the program, confiscating computers containing information that unwittingly jeopardized the safety of numerous Cubans; not realizing they were part of a clandestine U.S. operation.

The Associated Press investigation found that despite this, USAID put themselves and their targets at risk. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Compromised culture

Infiltration hurt Cuba's hip-hop culture

The operation compromised Cuba's vibrant hip-hop culture, which has produced some of the hardest-hitting grassroots criticism since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Artists that USAID contractors tried to promote left the country or stopped performing amid pressure from the Cuban government, and one of the island's most popular independent music festivals was taken over after officials linked it to USAID.

The operation was run in Cuba by Serbian contractor Rajko Bozic. The project was inspired by the protest concerts of the student movement that helped undermine former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. Nine years later, Bozic headed public relations for Serbia's EXIT Festival, an annual music event that had grown out of the student movement.

There are at least six separate occasions where Cuban authorities detained or interrogated people involved in the program; they also confiscated computer hardware from Bozic, and in some cases it contained information that jeopardized Cubans who likely had no idea they were caught up in a clandestine U.S. operation.

Still, contractors working for the U.S. Agency for International Development kept putting themselves and their targets at risk, the Associated Press investigation found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CBC to trim local TV newscasts

Five-year strategy. Changes are part of plan to shift priorities from TV and radio to mobile and digital

CBC will shorten all local supper-hour newscasts to 30 or 60 minutes and will broadcast Radio One morning shows on TV beginning next fall.

The changes are part of a five-year strategy to shift priorities from radio and television to mobile and digital announced by the public broadcaster in June.

Currently, most supper-hour newscasts at the CBC are 90 minutes.

Shows in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John's and the North will be trimmed to 60 minutes. Programs in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Windsor, Montreal and Fredericton will be chopped to 30 minutes.

CBC will broadcast local Radio One morning shows on TV between 6 and 7 a.m. in all existing markets except the North.

To offset the reduced newscasts, CBC said it would introduce regular local television newsbreaks during the day and prime time.

It also said it would maintain, and in some cases grow, its spending in local investigative journalism.

Also beginning next fall, CBC will introduce new services specifically for mobile users.

The broadcaster did not specify how jobs would be impacted by the changes.

"CBC/Radio-Canada's new local strategy is about changing how we serve the audience. We are moving to become a comprehensive four-platform local news service — across the day and on demand," Heather Conway, executive vice-president of English Services, said in a statement.

CBC Radio-Canada has already begun rolling out new regional websites across the country with geo-located French-language content. These websites, along with other new digital content, will be available Canada-wide by fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Digital offerings

- CEO Hubert Lacroix announced in June that the broadcaster was planning to cut down local newscasts as part of a plan to increase digital offerings by 2020.
- He did not provide details at that time. But he did say that between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs would be trimmed over the next five years.

Anti-competition

Bureau probes Apple contracts

The Competition Bureau is investigating allegations that Apple uses anti-competitive clauses in its contracts with Canadian wireless carriers.

The contracts relate to the supply of iPhones.

The bureau says it has not yet concluded whether there has been any wrongdoing on Apple's part. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 86.75¢ (-0.36¢)

TSX 13,905.12 (+52.17)

OIL $59.95 US (-$0.99)

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A Redbox machine at a grocery store in Toronto. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Redbox bets on DVD rentals

Rental kiosks. Company offering freebies to build brand awareness in Canadian market

Unlike other companies that have abandoned the physical media market, Outerwall is betting there's at least a few years left to make money renting out DVDs and Blu-rays.

The U.S.-based vending machine company, which operates the Redbox video rental kiosks and Coinstar money exchange machines, is trying to get Canadians reacquainted with the old routine of popping out to rent a movie.

And the company is offering Canadians some freebies to give the rental machines a try. Lots of them.

New customers get a free one-day rental, all customers can take home a free movie on Thursdays — every Thursday — and after Christmas consumers will be offered yet another free offer, says Redbox president Mark Horak, who admits growth in Canada has not met expectations.

The company operates nearly 1,400 movie-rental machines across Canada and more than 42,000 in the United States. Redbox had hoped to have twice as many machines in place in Canada by the end of 2013, but Horak concedes the company is still trying to build brand awareness here.

"Redbox is the dominant physical rental location now, we're just not in Canada to the extent we could be," says Horak. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holiday shopping. Tough time for teen retailers

Being a teen can be tough, but catering to one is even more difficult. Teen retailers are learning that lesson the hard way this holiday season.

The longtime CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch on Tuesday abruptly retired just a week after the retailer posted an 11.5 per cent quarterly sales drop and slashed its annual profit forecast. And American Eagle and Aeropostale gave dismal forecasts for the quarter that includes the holiday shopping season after each posted weak sales for the fall.

Teen retailers are facing ho-hum results at a time when overall U.S. retail sales are up 5.1 per cent over the past 12 months, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

It's a major shift for teen retailers. They became popular in the last decade for their logo tees and trendy jeans, which became a high school uniform of sorts. But since the recession, these stores have been losing favour with their core demographic.

One reason is technology. Teens are more interested in playing on smartphones than hanging out at the mall. They're also more likely to spend their money on iPhones and other tech gadgets.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

IN DEFENCE OF CALGARY'S WORST DRIVER

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

Water coolers were abuzz this week with talk of the latest YouTube sensation: Calgary's Worst Driver.

The four-minute video, caught on surveillance camera and seen by millions of people, depicts a woman in a silver BMW SUV trying to manoeuvre out of a parking spot. Her skills are so poor, the Beemer looks less like a vehicle and more like a confused bull charging backward at an invisible conquistador, in slow motion. She even hits a car behind her.

As I watched this driving instructor's nightmare, I was hit with several emotions: frustration, incredulity and, I'll be honest, judgment.

But, as I snickered, the video started to feel quite familiar — not because I'd seen it before, but because I had been *that driver*.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not as bad as Calgary's W.D., but, as someone who got behind the wheel only in her 30s, I'm also no Jacques Villeneuve. I once rented a car in Los Angeles and attempted to exit the parking lot the wrong way. I got stuck, and the Enterprise representative had to take over and get it out for me.

I think we were both glad I'd opted for the insurance.

Another time, at a Loblaws parking lot, I was trying to get into a tight spot and was dangerously close to the car beside me. As I struggled, I looked out the window and made eye contact with a man who was shaking his head "no" at me. It wasn't a sympathetic shake, it was more of a "you are a pathetic human being" gesture. I got red in the face and decided it was best I go home and not buy groceries that day.

It's easy to think other people are idiots, because they're not us. It's like those times in public bathrooms when I'll hear someone in a stall having a bad bowel day. I'll think, "Gross. What a loser."

And then I'll remember that I, too, have eaten tainted sushi outside of the house. (As a side note, in these cases, I always feel compelled to look under the stall at her shoes — as if the fact that she's wearing Uggs will shed some light on why this is happening to her.)

Calgary's Worst Driver also had the worst luck getting caught on camera, so I hesitate to laugh too hard. Public humiliation could happen to any of us.

It's winter now. Imagine tomorrow you wipe out on the ice, only to have yourself broadcast on the CBC News as Toronto's Worst Walker. You'd have a whole YouTube comment section dedicated to your inability to saunter. We live in a world where cameras are everywhere — and there are so many things I'm glad an iPhone hasn't caught me doing: from licking the inside of a pizza box to scratching the inside of my nose. With less luck, I would have already been crowned Canada's Most Disgusting Person.

All of this said, I'm not letting the lady behind the wheel of the silver BMW entirely off the hook; she's deserving of some of our collective scorn, not because she is a terrible driver, but because she hit a car and then (slowly) fled the scene. It's one thing to be a bozo on your own time, but as soon as you drag someone else into your incompetence, you should do the right thing and leave a note on your victim's windshield.

Being bad at something doesn't make you worthy of ridicule and judgment, but making someone else pay for it does.

To watch the notorious video, scan this image with your Metro News app. SCREENGRAB

Happy face/Sad face

From serpentine revenge to serpentine non-events, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week

SNAKES IN A CAFÉ

Ever been so mad at the absence of diced onions on your Tim's sandwich that you threw a snake at the cashier? Well one guy in Saskatoon (allegedly) has, and now he's facing charges. Police claim the suspect grabbed a garter snake from his friend's pocket and lobbed it behind the counter because his breakfast wasn't made to his liking. Talk about a hissy fit. (See what we did there?)

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

On Wednesday this amazing Pakistani teen became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Yousafzai brought her two best friends — who were also injured when she was shot by the Taliban — to Oslo with her to share in the incredible moment.

GOING NUTS OVER NUTS

How's this for air rage? An Air Korea flight was delayed when the airline chairman's daughter ordered a crew member off the plane for serving nuts in a bag rather than on a plate. Cho Hyun-ah — who is also an executive for the airline — may be charged for breaching aviation safety regulations by interrupting a flight.

EBOLA FIGHTERS

For their "tireless acts of courage and mercy," Time magazine has named frontline workers in the fight against Ebola as its Person of the Year. More than 600 healthcare workers have contracted the disease, and nearly 350 have died, according to the World Health Organization.

NOT EATEN ALIVE

In other snake news ... naturalist Paul Rosolie disappointed four million Discovery Channel viewers when his much-hyped two-hour show Eaten Alive — in which he was to wear a special suit and get eaten by an anaconda — fell short of its graphic promise. Rosolie was *not* eaten, but did suffer an arm injury from being constricted. In the words of Stephen Colbert: "You promised us Paul Rosolie would be eaten alive ... but you only gave us 'Cuddled Alive.'"

metro

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Going straight can be a rocky road

Top Five. From Bill Murray and Robin Williams to Jim Carrey and Jonah Hill, all comic actors eventually attempt to switch to more dramatic roles

Chris Rock wrote, directed and stars in his new comedy, Top Five. CONTRIBUTED

Bill Murray became a big-screen superstar on the back of loose-limbed performances in comedies like Caddyshack, Stripes and Ghostbusters. By 1984, however, he was tiring of playing the clown and looking to do something with a bit more of an edge.

When director John Byrum gave him a copy of W. Somerset Maugham's 1944 novel The Razor's Edge, Murray responded the very next day.

Calling the director at 4 a.m., he said, "This is Larry, Larry Darrell," dropping the name of the novel's main character, an enigmatic man on a quest for spiritual fulfilment.

The resulting film bombed, with Roger Ebert suggesting Murray played "the hero as if fate is a comedian and he is the straight man."

Of course Murray has gone on to become a credible and in-demand dramatic actor, but the story of a comedian's rocky leap from farce to drama still rings true today.

Chris Rock's new comedy Top Five tells the story of Andre Allen, a fictional megastar trying to jump from silly comedies to Uprize, a serious drama about the slave revolt in Haiti.

Top Five is a new twist on an old story. Many comedians have tried to flick the switch from comedy to drama.

Robin Williams effortlessly hopped between genres. In 2002 alone, he made three films: the lowbrow laffer Death to Smoochy, the psychodrama One Hour Photo and Christopher Nolan's thriller Insomnia.

Will Ferrell, Steve Carell and Jonah Hill are known for funny movies like Blades of Glory, The 40-Year-Old Virgin and Superbad, but each have stretched their dramatic muscles.

Ferrell's Stranger Than Fiction earned a good review from Roger Ebert, who said Ferrell "has dramatic gifts to equal his comedic talent."

Carell's new drama Foxcatcher looks poised to earn him notice at awards time.

And Jonah Hill is a two-time Oscar nominee for heavyweights Moneyball and The Wolf of Wall Street.

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Top Five

Director. Chris Rock

Stars. Chris Rock, Rosario Dawson, Gabrielle Union

●●●●○

The top five things to know about Top Five are: It works as a comedy, as a romance, as a look at creative fulfilment, as a showcase for Chris Rock's comedian friends and as a portrait of fame in the 2000s.

Rock, who also writes and directs, stars as a comedian making a switch to serious drama.

Promoting his new movie and nuptials to reality star Erica (Gabrielle Union), he spends the day with reporter Chelsea Brown (Rosario Dawson) who urges him to think about his past and future.

Unlike his movie alter ego, Rock is clearly still interested in being funny in this personal film that crackles with energy and NSFW humour.

TOM LEE
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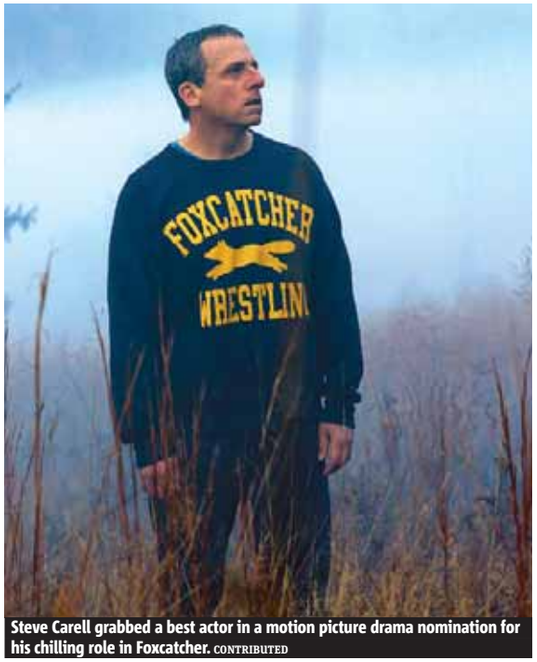
Birdman, Boyhood have that golden touch

Awards. Aside from wild cards like The Judge, the Golden Globe noms are a pretty predictable lot

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Not surprisingly, Birdman racked up seven Golden Globe nominations. CONTRIBUTED



Steve Carell grabbed a best actor in a motion picture drama nomination for his chilling role in Foxcatcher. CONTRIBUTED

The Golden Globes, the Oscars' more fun, slightly more dishevelled younger sibling, rolled out their nominations for 2014. Traditionally what they pick has been a reasonably accurate prediction of what the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will themselves choose, as well as what has been feted by other laudatory organizations. And if you've been following critics groups' awards, you already know that Boyhood and Birdman are the best horses for your betting needs.

That said, there are always some wild cards, the most glaring being the nomination for Robert Duvall for The Judge — a rickety, faintly offensive stab at a crowd-pleasing awards gobbler that presumably most people already forget ever existed. In a similar but different vein, Jessica Chastain racked up her token nod for the 10,000 movies she did this year, but it wasn't for The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby, as the Weinstein Company would have liked. Instead it's for her Brooklyn-accented work in the crime saga A Most Violent Year.

Julianne Moore wound up with two nominations — one for the Alzheimer's drama Still Alice, another for David Cronenberg's Hollywood satire Maps to the Stars, the latter, which had seemed to have been lost in the shuffle.

The most curious bits involved the Globes' classification system, especially what it designates as comedy and drama. It's neat that they didn't try to elevate the very silly Birdman — or the even nuttier Inherent Vice, which scored a single nod, for Joaquin Phoenix — to the prestigious dramatic category.

That said, is Tim Burton's Big Eyes really a comedy? Its tale of a woman (Amy Adams) whose paintings are stolen by her abusive husband (Christoph Waltz) is very broadly played, but is that even the same thing?

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Drama

Exodus: Gods and Kings

Director. Ridley Scott

Stars. Christian Bale, Ben Kingsley

From acclaimed director Ridley Scott (Gladiator, Prometheus) comes the epic adventure Exodus: Gods and Kings, the story of one man's daring courage to take on the might of an empire. Using state-of-the-art visual effects and 3D immersion, Scott brings new life to the story of the defiant leader Moses (Christian Bale).

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 45% **Audience:** + 96%

Drama/Comedy

Gemma Bovery

Director. Anne Fontaine

Stars. Gemma Arterton, Fabrice Luchini

Martin, an ex-Parisian and well-heeled hipster passionate about Gustave Flaubert, settles into a Norman village as a baker, and sees an English couple moving into a small farm nearby. Not only are the names of the new arrivals Gemma and Charles Bovery, but their behaviour also seems to be inspired by Flaubert's heroes.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: **Audience:**
No reviews yet 45%

Drama

Wild

Director. Jean-Marc Vallée

Stars. Reese Witherspoon, Kevin Rankin

With the dissolution of her marriage and the death of her mother, Cheryl Strayed has lost all hope. After years of reckless, destructive behaviour, she makes a rash decision. With absolutely no experience, driven only by sheer determination, Cheryl hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, alone.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: **Audience:**
88% + 95%

Drama

Force Majeure

Director. Ruben Östlund

Stars. Johannes Bah Kuhnke, Lisa Loven Kongsli

A critical favourite and word-of-mouth sensation at this year's Cannes Festival, where it took the Jury Prize in Un Certain Regard, this wickedly funny and precisely observed psychodrama tells the story of a model Swedish family — handsome businessman Tomas, his willowy wife Ebba and their two blond, pre-teen children — on a skiing holiday in the French Alps.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 96% **Audience:** 80%

Comedy

Horrible Bosses 2

Director. Sean Anders

Stars. Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day

The followup to the 2011 hit comedy Horrible Bosses reunites Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as everyone's favourite working stiffs: Nick, Dale and Kurt. Jennifer Aniston (We're the Millers), and Oscar winners Jamie Foxx (Ray) and Kevin Spacey (American Beauty, The Usual Suspects) also reprise their Horrible Bosses starring roles.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 35% **Audience:** 65%

Drama/Comedy

Dear White People

Director. Justin Simien

Stars. Tyler James Williams, Tessa Thompson

Winner of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival's Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Talent, Dear White People is a sly, provocative satire of race relations in the age of Obama. Writer/director Justin Simien follows a group of African American students as they navigate campus life and racial politics at a predominantly white college.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 90% **Audience:** 71%

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 12 TO THURS., DEC. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

OMNIMAX Theatre Science World, 1455 Quebec St.

Hidden Universe (STC) Fri 12-2 Sat-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-2
Journey to the South Pacific (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Santa vs. The Snowman (STC) Fri-Thu 3

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) A.M. Mon 11:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Mon 7; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 3:25-7-10:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Mon 3:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 3:45-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:35

Fifth Avenue Cinemas 2110 Burrard Street

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:20-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10
Foxcatcher (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Mon 12:45-3:45-9:45 Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed 12:45-3:45-9:45 Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:10-10
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Tue 1:10-4-6:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 1-4-7-9:50
Wild (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:10-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:50

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

Frames of Mind (STC) Wed 7:30
Hail Mary (STC) Fri 8:10 Sun 6:30
HÈlas pour moi (STC) Sat 6:30
King Lear (STC) Thu 6:30
Meet Me in St. Louis (STC) Sun 1
Notre musique (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 8:15 Sun 8:35
Passion (STC) Mon 6:30
PrÈnom Carmen (STC) Thu 8:20
Soigne ta Droite (STC) Sat 8:15 Mon 8:15

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sat 3:45-7:20 Sun 12:15-3:45-7:20 Mon 3:30 Tue-Thu 3:30-7:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9

Rio on Broadway, 1660 E. Broadway

Boyhood (PG) Mon-Tue 9:30
Force Majeure (PG) Mon-Tue 7
Home Alone (STC) Fri 11:59

Scotiabank Theatre 900 Burrard St

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 2:10-4:50-7:25-10:10 Sat 4:50-7:25-10:10 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:25-10:10 Mon 1:45-10:30 Tue 2:10-4:50-7:25-10:10
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon 3:10-6:30-10 Tue 12-3:20-6:40-10 Wed-Thu 3:35-6:55-10:15
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 Mon 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Tue 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:45-4:05-7:25-10:45; 3D (STC) Mon 4
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-4:30; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:30-3:10-5:50-6:30-7:50-9:10-9:50
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:30-5-7:40-10:20 Mon 2:30-4:55-7:25-10:10 Tue 12:05-2:30-5-7:40-10:20 Wed-Thu 2:25-5-7:40-10:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:35-1-1:30-3:35-4:05-4:30-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10:05-10:30 Sat 12:20-12:35-1-3:35-4:05-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10:05-10:30 Sun 12:35-1-1:30-3:35-4:05-4:30-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10:05-10:30 Mon 1-3:35-4:30-7:15-10-10:25 Tue 12:15-12:35-1-3-3:35-4:05-6:30-7-9:30-10:05-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:25

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street

1,000 Times Good Night (PG) Fri 11-6:30 Sat 2:10-8:15 Mon 6:30 Wed 2-6:30
Antarctica: A Year on Ice (STC) Sat 6:30
Awake: The Life of Yogananda (STC) Tue 6:30-8:30
The Babadook (STC) Fri 10:40 Sat 10:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun
The Overnighters (PG) Fri 8:45 Sat 4:30 Wed 4:15-8:45
Purple Rain (STC) Mon 8:45
We Are the Music! (STC) Thu 7

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way

The Polar Express 4-D Experience (STC) Fri 11:45-1:15-3:15-4:20 Sat-Sun 11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:20 Mon-Thu 11:45-1:15-3:15-4:20

Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

Annie (G) Thu 7-9:50
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 3:45-7 Mon-Tue 7 Wed 7-9:50; 3D (G) Fri 9:40 Sat-Sun 1-9:40 Mon-Tue 9:40
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:20
Corner Gas: The Movie (G) Fri-Tue 6:50
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri 6:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:45; 3D (STC) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:15-8 Mon-Tue 8 Wed-Thu 7:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 7:30; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 6:30-8-10
Past Tense (G) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:45-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:45-9:30
Serena (14A) Fri 9:35 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-9:35 Mon-Tue 9:35

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7:20-10:05 Sat 4:50-7:20-10:05 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:20-10:05 Mon 7:20-10 Tue 4:50-7:20-10 Wed 7:20-10
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri 7:15-9:55 Sat 11:15-2-4:40-7:15-9:55 Sun 2-4:40-7:15-9:55 Mon 7:10-9:50 Tue 4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Thu 1
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:05-7-10 Mon 7-9:55 Tue 4-7-9:55 Wed-Thu 7-9:55
Interstellar (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:15-8 Mon 8 Tue 4:15-8 Wed-Thu 8
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7-9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Sat 10-12:30 Sun 12:30 Star & Strollers Thu 1
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 7:30-9:55 Sat-Sun 2:50-5:10-7:30-9:55 Mon 7:30-9:55 Tue 5-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 7:30-9:55
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat 10:10-1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon 6:50-9:45 Tue 4-6:50-9:45 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:45

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:45-4:25-7:05 Sat 11-1:45-4:25-7:05 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:05;
3D (G) Fri 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat 11:30-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:20 Sun 4:45-7:30-10:20 Mon-Tue 1:15-4-7-10:05 Wed 1:15-4-10:05 Thu 1:15-4-7-10:05

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

Annie (G) Thu 7-9:50
Back in Time (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:30
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:10-6:45 Wed-Thu 1:30 Sat 11:15; 3D (G) Fri 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:45-9:20
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:25
Don't Go Breaking My Heart 2 (PG) Fri 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:55-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:45
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 2-4:35-7:15-10:10 Sat 11:25-2-4:35-7:15-10:10 Sun-Wed 2-4:35-7:15-10:10 Thu 4:35-7:15-10:10 Star & Strollers Thu 2
Exhibition OnScreen: Matisse (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) No Passes Fri 3:20-6:40-10 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-10; 3D (STC) Fri 12:50-4-7:20-10:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:30
Fury (14A) Fri-Tue 8:30
Gone Girl (14A) Fri 3:50-7:15-10:35 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:35 Mon-Wed 3:30-7-10:20 Thu 3:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 2:50-6:10; IMAX 3D (PG) No Wed-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:50-10:10; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12:40-4-7:20-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:10-5:30-8:50 Wed-Thu 9:30
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri 2:50-5:30-8:10-10:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:20-5-7:45-10:25
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Wed 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-9:55-10:30 Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7:30-10:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-5:20-9; IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 2:40-6:20-10 Sat 11-2:40-6:20-10 Sun-Tue 2:40-6:20-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7-9:30
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Tue 9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:10-3:30-6 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6 Mon-Tue 1:10-3:30-6 Wed 1:50 Thu 1:15 Star & Strollers Thu 2; 3D (G) Fri 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:35 Sat 11:30-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:35 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:35 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:10-9:35
PK (STC) Thu 9
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Serena (14A) Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:15-3:45-6:20
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:30-10:15
Women Who Flirt (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:25-10:05

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:55 Sat 11:15 Sun 1:25 Mon-Tue 1:55 Wed-Thu 1:45; 3D (G) Fri 4:35-7:15-9:50 Sat 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:50 Sun 4:05-6:45-9:20 Mon 4:40-7:20-9:55 Tue 4:35-7:15-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:25-7:05-9:45
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sat 2-4:40-7:25-10:10 Sun 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:40 Mon-Tue 2-4:40-7:25-10:10 Wed 12:35-4:30-7:15-10 Thu 12:35-4:25
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri-Sat 4 Sun 3:30 Mon-Tue 3:55 Wed-Thu 3:40; 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 12:45-7:20-10:40 Sun 12:15-6:50-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:45-7:10-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:30-6:55-10:10
The Hobbit Trilogy 3D (STC) Mon 4
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 3:10-6:30; 3D (PG) Wed 1:15-2:30-5:50-9:10-9:50 Thu 1:10-2:30-5:50-9:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri 1:40-2:20-4:20-5-7-7:40-9:40-10:20 Sat 11:05-1:40-4:20-5-7-7:40-9:40-10:20 Sun 1:10-1:50-3:50-4:30-6:30-7:10-9:10-9:50 Mon 2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Tue 1:40-2:20-4:20-5-7-7:40-9:40-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:15-6:20-9:20 Mon-Tue 1-4-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:35-9:35 Fri 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:30 Sat 11:05-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:30 Sun 1-4-7:05-10 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:45-6:30-10:15 Sat 11:10-2:45-6:30-10:15 Sun 2:15-6-9:45 Mon-Thu 2:35-6:20-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7-9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 2:05-4:25-6:55-9:20 Sat 11:45-2:10-4:30-6:55-9:20 Sun 1:40-4-6:25-8:50 Mon-Tue 2:05-4:25-6:55-9:20 Wed-Thu 12:40; 3D (G) Fri 12:45-3:5:20-7:45-10:05 Sat 12:40-3-5:20-7:45-10:05 Sun 12:15-2:30-4:50-7:15-9:35 Mon 12:55-1:20-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15 Tue 12:55-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15 Wed-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:35-9:55
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street

Annie (G) Thu 7-10
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 12:55-3:45-6:30 Sat 11:10-12:55-3:45-6:30 Sun 12:55-3:45-6:30 Mon-Tue 1-3:45-6:30 Wed-Thu 1:40; 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:55 Mon 1:05-3:55-7:15-9:55 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:55
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:35-7:50-10:35 Mon 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:45-10:25 Fri-Sun 12:30-5-8-10:45 Mon-Tue 3:30-7:50-10:30
Exhibition OnScreen: Matisse (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri-Thu 4; 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 1:30-3:05-6:30-10:05 Mon-Tue 3:50-6:30-10 Wed-Thu 3:45-7:10-10:30 Fri-Sun 12:40-7:20-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:45-7:15-10:30
Fury (14A) Fri 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:40 Sat-Sun 4:25-7:35-10:40 Mon 12:55-4-10:30 Tue 12:55-4-7:05-10:15
Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Mon-Wed 1:55-5:15-8:35 Thu 3
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:40-8 Wed-Thu 5:15-8:45; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 2:30-6:30-9:50 Wed-Thu 3:20-6:45-10:10
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:40-10:25 Fri-Sun 12:50-4-7-9:45 Mon-Tue 4:10-7-9:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30 Fri 1-4:05-7-10 Sat 11:05-1-4:05-7-10 Sun 1-4:05-7-10 Mon 1:05-4:05-10 Tue 1:05-4:05-7-10 Wed 4:05-7-10 Thu 1:05-4:05-7-10 Fri-Sun 1:10-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon-Tue 4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed-Thu 3-6:15-9:20 Star & Strollers Wed 1
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:45-6:40-10:20 Sat 11-2:45-6:40-10:20 Sun 2:45-6:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:10-6-9:45 Fri-Sun 1:50-5:35-9:20 Mon-Tue 5-8:45 Wed-Thu 4:30-8:15
John Wick (14A) Fri-Tue 9:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the

In Style
& On SALE
Save up to 50% during our Annual Winter Sale. On now.
INGLEDEW'S
535 Granville St • Oakridge Centre • Park Royal North
Richmond Centre • Brentwood Town Centre (Clearance)

Tomb (PG) Thu 7:05-9:40
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Tue 9:05
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 1:30-4:10-6:45 Sat 11:05-1:30-4:10-6:45 Sun 1:30-4:10-6:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:15-6:45 Wed-Thu 2:50; 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:55 Mon 1:45-4:15-7:30-9:55 Tue 2:50-5:10-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:30-9:55
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Serena (14A) Fri-Tue 2-4:40-7:25-10:05 Wed 2-4:45-7:25-10:05 Thu 1-4:15
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Wed 4:10-7:05-10:10 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:05-10:10 Star & Strollers Wed 1

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
The Book of Life (G) Sat-Sun 12:30; 3D (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
The Boxtrolls (G) Sat-Sun 12:30
Gone Girl (14A) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Guardians of the Galaxy 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 8:40
John Wick (14A) Fri-Thu 8:50
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Action Jackson (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:55-10:10 Mon-Wed 2:35-5:50-9:45 Thu 1:45-5:50-10:10
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Tue 1:50 Wed-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:15-9:50; 3D (G) Fri-Tue 4:30-7:15-9:50
Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:25-5-8:10 Wed-Thu 2-6-9
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 2-4:40-7:25-10 Mon 1:30-4:10-10:10 Tue-Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10 Thu 2-4:40-7:20
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri-Sun 4 Mon-Thu 4:15; 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-7:20-10:35 Mon-Tue 1-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 1-7:25-10:35
Happy Go Lucky (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-4:10-7:10-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:25
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 2:50-6:10-9:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:20-3:40-7-10:20
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 2:20-5-7:40-10:15 Wed 4:55-7:40-10:15 Thu 2:20-4:55-7:40-10:15 Star & Strollers Wed 1
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 1-1:30-4:05-4:35-7-7:30-9:55-10:30 Sat 11:15-1-1:30-4:05-4:35-7-7:30-9:55-10:30 Sun 1-1:30-4:05-4:35-7-7:30-9:55-10:30 Mon 1:10-1:25-4:05-4:15-7-9:55-10:20 Tue 1:10-1:35-4:05-4:35-7-7:25-9:55-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:05-7-9:55
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:45-6:30-10:05 Sat 11-2:45-6:30-10:05 Sun-Wed 2:45-6:30-10:05 Thu 2:45-6:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Tue 1:55-4:25-7:05 Star & Strollers Wed 1 Thu 1:05; 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:05-3:15-5:30-7:45-10 Wed-Thu 3:15-5:30-7:45-10
PK (STC) Thu 9-10:05
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Ungli (PG) Fri-Tue 9:40

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Action Jackson (14A) Fri-Tue 1-4:30-8
Annie (G) Thu 6:55-9:55
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 4:05-6:50 Sat 10:10-4:05-6:50 Sun-Tue 4:05-6:50 Wed-Thu 12:50-4:05-6:50-9:30; 3D (G) Fri-Tue 12:50-9:30
Chaar Sahibzaade (PG) Fri 12:55 Sat 10-12:55 Sun 12:55 Mon 12:55-3:55-7-10 Tue 10-12:55; 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:55-7-10 Tue 3:55 Tue 7-10
Corner Gas: The Movie (G) Fri-Sun 7:05
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri 3:15 Sat 10:05-3:15 Sun-Thu 3:15; 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-6:45-9:15
The Hobbit Trilogy 3D (STC) Mon 12:30
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 11:30-1-3-4:30-8; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 12-3:30-6:30-7-10
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri 1:35-4:40-7:20-10:20 Sat 10:25-1:35-4:40-7:20-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:35-4:40-7:20-10:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 10:15 Sun 9:45 Mon 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:15 Tue 12:40-1:10-3:45-4:15-7:15-9:45-10:15 Wed 7:15-10:15 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:15 Fri 12:40-3:45-9:45 Sat 12:40-1:10-3:45-4:15-7:15-9:45-10:15 Sun 12:40-1:10-3:45-4:15-7:15-10:15 Tue 6:40 Wed 1:10-4:15
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-7:45 Thu 12:50-3:50
Meet the Mormons (G) Fri 1:15-4:35-7:25-9:40 Sat 10:40-1:15-4:35-7:25-9:40 Sun-Thu 1:15-4:35-7:25-9:40
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7:10-9:45
Past Tense (G) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:05 Sat 10:30-1:20-4:20-7:10-10:05 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:05 Mon 1:20-4:20-7:10 Tue-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:05 Thu 1:20-4:20 Mon 10:05
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 4-6:40 Sat 10:20-4-6:40 Sun-Wed 4-6:40 Thu 9:30-4-6:40; 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-10:10
Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: Henry V (STC) Sat 10
Top Five (18A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:45-7:30-10:05 Wed 4:45-7:30-10:05 Thu 1:25-4:45-7:30-10:05 Sat 10:35 Wed 1:25

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Hundred-Foot Journey (G) Fri-Thu 5
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri 4-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 4-6:30-9
Whiplash (14A) Sat-Sun 2:30

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 4:15-6:30-8:55 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15-6:30-8:55 Mon-Tue 4:15-6:30-8:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri 6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:35
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 4-6:50-9:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 4:40-6:40-8:55 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:40-6:40-8:55 Mon-Thu 4:40-6:40-8:55

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:05-5:25-7:35 Mon 5:25-7:35 Tue 12:55-3:05-5:25-7:35

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

Annie (G) Thu 7:10-9:50
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 2:30-5:05-7:45 Mon 5:05-7:45 Tue 2:30-5:05-7:45 Wed-Thu 4:35-7:15; 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:45 Mon 4:35-7:15-9:45 Tue 1:55-4:35-7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 9:45
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Tue 9:40 Wed-Thu 9:35
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 2:05-4:40-7:30-10 Mon 4:40-7:30-10 Tue 2:05-4:40-7:30-10 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:30-10
Exhibition OnScreen: Matisse (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings (STC) Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:50 Mon 6:40-9:55 Tue 12-3:15-6:30-9:50 Wed 3:25-6:40-9:50 Thu 6:40-9:50; 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Mon 4-7:10-10:25 Tue 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:20
Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-6:55-10:05 Mon 4:15-7:10-10:05 Tue 12:50-3:55-6:55-10:05 Wed 3:55-6:55-10:05 Thu 3:55
Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:45-8:15 Mon 4:20-8:05 Tue 1:10-4:45-8:15
The Hobbit Trilogy Triple Bill IMAX 3D (STC) Mon 4
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Wed-Thu 5:50; IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Wed-Thu 3:30-6:50-10:10; 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 9:10 Wed 3:05-6:20-9:40 Thu 6:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 4-7:20-10:40
Horrible Bosses (14A) Star & Strollers Wed 3
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 2:30-5-7:40-10:20 Mon 5-7:40-10:15 Tue 2:30-5-7:40-10:20 Wed 7:40-10:15 Thu 5-7:40-10:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 4:05-6:50-9:45 Tue 1-4-7-10 Wed-Thu 3:45-4-4:25-6:35-7-7:25-9:30-10-10:25 Fri-Sat 12:20-1:25-3:30-4:25-6:35-7:25-9:30-10:25 Sun 1:25-3:30-4:25-6:35-7:25-9:30-10:25 Mon 4:35-5:05-7:30-9:20-10:20 Tue 12:20-1:25-3:30-4:25-6:35-7:25-9:30-10:25
Interstellar (PG) Fri 1:45-5:30-9:15 Sat 5:30-9:15 Sun 1:45-5:30-9:15 Mon 5:30-9:15 Tue 1:45-5:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 5:45-9:25; IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 2:55-6:25-9:55 Sat 11:30-2:55-6:25-9:55 Sun 2:55-6:25-9:55 Tue 2:55-6:25-9:55
John Wick (14A) Fri-Tue 10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg (STC) Sat 9
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Thu 7-9:35
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 2-4:15-7:20 Mon 4:45-7:20 Tue 2-4:15-7:20 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:20; 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3-5:20-7:45-10:05 Mon 5:20-7:45-10:05 Tue 12:25-3-5:20-7:45-10:05 Wed 5:25-7:45-10:05 Thu 5:20-7:45-10:05
The Polar Express 3D (G) Sat 11
Serena (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon 4:15-7-9:50 Tue 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed 4:30-7:10-9:50 Thu 4:20
St. Vincent (PG) Fri-Tue 10:15
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:55 Mon 4:05-7:05-9:55 Tue 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:55
Top Five (18A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon 5:10-7:50-10:30 Tue 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:50-10:35 Star & Strollers Wed 3

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Alan Turing's 5 awesome things

The Imitation Game. Benedict Cumberbatch is so impressed with Second World War hero Alan Turing, he offers five reasons to watch the new biopic

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

When Benedict Cumberbatch signed on to play Second World War code breaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing in The Imitation Game, he became enamoured with the man. And he thinks you should be, too.

So here, in his own words, is why Cumberbatch thinks Turing is such "an extraordinary human being" — and why the film chronicling his decoding of the German Enigma machine and turning the tide of war deserves attention.

1. He made great things out of great suffering.

"All of the worst moments in his life led to achievements," explains Cumberbatch. "Being ostracized from a group made him think about isolating work. Not understanding how to communicate because so much of what he had to deal with in his life was to do with secrets made him an expert cryptographer. The idea of clandestine, repressed coding and analyzing that language was just completely borne out of his circumstance."

2. He's not a Sherlock knock-off.

"Though Sherlock is an immediate comparison, they're so different. Sherlock is a sociopathic showoff, and Alan was anything but. He was a team player despite our narrative arc in our story."

3. He never had a chance to be comfortable with himself.

Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch star in The Imitation Game, now in theatres. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"At university, he was in a very openly extroverted and celebratory gay culture, but he was incredibly shy because he'd spent his entire childhood loving somebody who then died. Not having it consummated or having it reciprocated, he hadn't formed that understanding of what that was and didn't have any confidence with it. So that was almost as terrifying as complete intolerance."

4. He was not a fan of metaphors and puns.

"There was just enough in language that he found disturbing to what he understood of things and how language should be used — what words are literally interpretable as, rather than innuendo or inflection or irony.

"If you take the bare instructions of what words are, he was fascinated with that."

5. He can be funny — and it's OK to laugh.

"(The film) should be funny — and sometimes unintentionally on his part. It's him missing the point, or not missing the point, but everyone else using lazy language and him thinking they mean literally what they mean. I don't think he was always trying to be a pedant. I think he genuinely did think in a very literal way, hence his discoveries."

Chris Rock frickin' loves Leo's brio

Leonardo DiCaprio

Chris Rock has been on something of a tear lately, making some pointed and perfectly worded observations about Hollywood, race issues in America and the like. But it's not all criticism for Rock. There are few things he has genuine appreciation for, like Leonardo DiCaprio's lifestyle.

As Rock tells Howard Stern during an interview: "I love the guy. He enjoys himself. If he's not doing a movie, he's 40 pounds more, with a fine motherf—er. With a beard and model. F— y'all. I'm eating cheeseburgers and f—ing fine bitches." The American dream, that.

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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Johnny Depp ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Depp goes straight to the art of naked Duchess Kate

Things could get awkward if Prince William and Kate Middleton ever have a run-in with Johnny Depp. The Pirates of the Caribbean star splashed out more than $100,000 for a pair of pieces by street artist Pegasus featuring a naked Middleton. One, which gained notoriety when Pegasus spray-painted it on a wall in North London, features Kate cradling her pregnant stomach with a crown perched atop it, the logo for HBO series Game of Thrones stencilled underneath. Depp commissioned a second nude Middleton.

"I knew Johnny was coming and wanted the two Kate Middleton works," Pegasus' manager, Leonard Villa, tells InTouch Weekly. "He was extremely charming and immediately bought the painting and put down an offer for the second one." In addition to a double dose of the naked Duchess, Depp spent another $40,000 on a Pegasus portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, though one can only hope she's more clothed than her granddaughter-in-law.

Drew finally grows into her old soul

Drew Barrymore is turning 40 soon, everybody. Just let that sink in a minute. OK, now back to it: With a little over two months to go before she hits the big four-oh, Barrymore is taking stock. "I'm so excited," she tells E! News. "I finally feel the age that I am and I'll tell you why. I always felt older than the number I was. I was always too mature and adult and raising myself or running a company or I'm only 19 and I'm a homeowner. Forty feels like where I'm at. It makes sense." They grow up so fast, right?

Drew Barrymore

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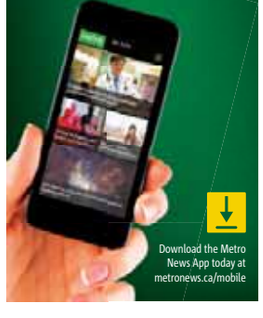

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

It's beginning to taste a lot like Christmas

Chocolate-Coated Marshmallow Cookies. Switch those tired gingerbreads for something more fun

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

This recipe makes 30 cookies. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Shortbread Cookies

1. In food processor, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add butter and pulse until mix is grainy. Add egg and vanilla. Pulse again until dough just begins to form. Shape into a disc with hands and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Ingredients

Shortbread Cookies
- 3/4 cup (105 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (53 g) sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup (57 g) cold unsalted butter, diced
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) vanilla extract

Marshmallow
- 1 tbsp powdered gelatin
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) water
- 1/2 cup (105 g) sugar
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) light corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp (2 1/2 ml) vanilla extract

Chocolate Coating
- 8 oz (225 g) dark chocolate, chopped

2. With rack in middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

3. On floured work surface, roll out dough to about 1/8-inch (3 mm) thick. Cut 30 cookies using a 1 3/4-inch (4.5 cm) round cookie cutter. Place the cookies on the baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool.

Marshmallow

1. In saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over water and let bloom 5 minutes. Add sugar. Melt over low heat, stirring until the sugar and gelatin have dissolved.

2. Pour into bowl. Add corn syrup and vanilla and beat with an electric mixer until soft peaks form, about 10 minutes.

3. With pastry bag fitted with a 3/4-inch (2 cm) diameter plain, and filled with marshmallow, top each cookie with dome of marshmallow. Let cool for 30 minutes at room temperature.

Chocolate Coating

1. In a bowl in microwave, melt 5 oz (140 g) chocolate. Remove and add remaining chocolate. Stir until smooth. If necessary, microwave for a few more seconds if chocolate does not melt. Be careful not to overheat the chocolate.

2. Dip cooled cookies, marshmallow side down, in the chocolate, flip and remove from the chocolate with a fork. Shake to remove any excess chocolate.

3. Place cookies on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Refrigerate 30 minutes. Serve at room temperature. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!**

Liquid Assets

Bringing back bubbly

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Today's my birthday, so I thought I'd get a jump on New Year's Eve by talking champagne this week.

Unfortunately, the popularity of high-end fizz has seen better days.

For the average consumer, the proliferation of decent sparkling wine with a Champagne sensibility (and much cheaper price) from regions around the world has all but relegated the real stuff to special occasions.

The rise of prosecco, Italy's lightly effervescent sparkler, has had the biggest impact. Recent industry reports are that prosecco has surpassed champagne sales in North America for the first time.

That said, the region of Champagne in northern France is still the benchmark when it comes to infusing booze with bubbles. Non-vintage bubbly offers the best value, with Piper-Heidsieck Brut ($54.95 - $64.99) showing off classic nutty/toasty aromas with an edge of bright citrus that ripples across the palate.

Fun fact: Champagne loves food, especially anything fat and salty. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Recipe makes 16 White Chocolate Macadamia cookies. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Crowd-pleasing cookies

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In a bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

3. In another bowl, cream butter and brown sugar with electric mixer. Add egg and beat until smooth and creamy. Using wooden spoon, stir in nuts and chocolate.

4. With floured hands, shape the dough into balls, about (2 tbsp) each. Arrange 8 balls on each baking sheet. Bake one sheet at a time until the cookies start to brown lightly around the edges, about 7 minutes. The cookies will be very soft in the centre.

5. Let cool on the baking sheet. **RICARDO**

Ingredients

- 1 cup (140 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/2 cup (15 g) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (180 g) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup (65 g) unsalted macadamia nuts
- 4 oz (115 g) white chocolate, coarsely chopped

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GIFT IDEA #12

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Know your limit, play within it. GameSense

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metro HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2014

Grade A gifts for teachers

Pop quiz. Gift class is now in session — first test, what to buy the teacher in your life

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Looking to pick up something special for your children's teacher?

A gift is a wonderful way to show appreciation for the important part that the teacher plays in their lives — and it's a great way to teach children that giving is an important part of the holidays, too. These fun and practical ideas are sure to get an A+.

Scent test

Wrap up scented soaps for your favourite teacher. Floral grapefruit triple-milled soaps, $12.99, at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Time out

When kids head outside for recess, teachers often head to the staff room for a time out too ... and a cup of tea.

Premium tinned teas, $4.99/each and porcelain tea cup and saucer, $6.99, both at Winners, winners.ca.

Light thinking

Your teacher will appreciate this long-lasting candle, which will fill the air with a delightful aroma. This is the perfect gift to wrap up for the teacher to take home. Boxed scented amber candle, $24.99, at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Chocolate lessons

Belgium is home to some of the best chocolate in the world ... these cookies are delicious proof. Sensations Belgium biscuits collection, $7.99, at Sobeys, sobeys.com.

Coffee break

Dishwasher and microwave safe, this tall porcelain latte mug is a perfect staff kitchen addition. You can sweeten this gift by filling it with jelly beans or your teacher's favourite candies. H2K tall latte mug, $2.99/each, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Hand therapy

Holding chalk and writing on a chalkboard can cause hand stiffness ... these fun and colourful rubber balls are designed to increase flexibility and relieve joint pain. Restore hand therapy kit contains three two-inch round rubber balls, $14.99, at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Apple of my eye

Here's an extra special apple for your teacher. Wrap up one of these specialty caramel apples for a sweet and creative gift. Caramel Apples, $8.99 to $12.99, at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, rockychoc.com.

Not sweet enough

Chocolate is one of teachers' favourite gifts to receive, and this simple gift idea is one you can put together or buy prepared ... hot chocolate in a jar. Toffee fudge hot chocolate in Mason jar, $9.99, at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Surprise

Everyone loves surprises ... crackers contain a mini lip gloss and eye shadow from Quo Cosmetics. Quo Christmas crackers, 3/pack, $15, at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Happy owl-idays

Festive holiday mug is for the smartest teacher in the world. $12, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

Take note

This red Coptic journal will make the teacher happy — it's practical and pretty. $14, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

Pretzel logic

Everyone will love these bite-sized pretzels dipped in peppermint-flavoured white chocolate. Happy holidays. Peppermint pretzel frost bites, $12, at Indigo, indigo.ca.

Biscotti

Satisfy a teacher's sweet tooth. These traditional cookies come in a variety of flavours and are sure to satisfy the palate of even the strictest teacher. Pick up homemade biscotti at your favourite bakery or local supermarket.

13 shopping days left

FOR MORE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS, VISIT HOLIDAY.METRONEWS.CA

High-tech solutions

Life-simplifying. If someone on your list has everything, these gifts are a no-brainer

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Still searching for a gift for the hard-to-buy-for person on your list? Here are some unique gadgets for those who seem to have just about everything.

Kobo Aura H2O
$179.99
Tired of putting your eReader in a bulky case or resealable zipper bag when taking it into the bathtub or near the pool? The Kobo Aura H2O, the world's first waterproof eReader, may be for you. This model can be submersed in one metre of water for up to 30 minutes, and is dust-proof so you don't have to worry about sand getting under the screen. A single charge can keep you reading for nearly two months, depending on how bright you keep the backlight.

Oral-B Smartseries Toothbrush
$199.99
This high-tech toothbrush connects to your smartphone via Bluetooth to gather personal brushing data. Brushing too hard? Sensors will notify you and adjust the speed of the brush to ensure you don't harm your gums. The toothbrush also keeps you entertained while brushing by showing you top news stories and weather updates so you continue to brush for the optimal time. Works with Android and iOS devices.

Tile
$20
Never lose your keys again. The small plastic tag can be attached to your car keys, television remote, or other device in your home. Once paired with your smartphone, it will send out a silent beacon, notifying you where it is. Tile is small enough to be placed almost anywhere, even inside a wallet or purse.

Sony SRS-X7 Speaker
$299.99
You don't have to give up sound quality for portability. Stream songs from your favourite audio device via Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and Airplay, or listen to them via the audio jack. A hidden USB port allows you to charge your smartphone or tablet while you listen to your favourite tunes. A single charge will give six hours of playback.

Moto 360 Smartwatch
$279
Easily one of the most attractive and stylish smartwatches on the market. Once paired with your Android smartphone, the Moto 360 will notify you of incoming email, texts, and social media alerts without you having to look at your phone. You can even respond by using voice control. The built-in heart rate monitor and pedometer is ideal for those who live a healthy lifestyle.

Impossible Instant Lab Photo Printer
$199 US
Turn your iPhone photos into Polaroid-style prints. Download the app, place your iPhone on top of the device, and watch as your digital photos are transformed into instant analog prints.

BioLite Basecamp
$299.95 US
The ultimate gift for avid campers. Grill, cook, and boil on this high-tech camp stove. The grill is elevated above the firewood for better temperature control. A built-in thermoelectric generator converts heat into electricity, which powers a LED light for cooking in the dark, and generates power to charge smartphones and other gadgets.

Philips Hue connected Bulb Starter Pack
$199.95
Change the look and feel of any room in your home with these unique colour-changing bulbs. Each bulb communicates with your iPhone or iPad, allowing you to dim, set timers, or change the colour. Since the bulbs are LED, they consume 80 per cent less power than traditional light bulbs.

Clockwise from top left: Moto 360 Smartwatch, $279; Impossible Instant Lab Photo Printer, $199 US; Kobo Aura H2O, $179.99; BioLite Basecamp, $299.95 US; Oral-B Smartseries Toothbrush, $199.99; Philips Hue connected Bulb Starter Pack, $199.95; Tile, $20; Sony SRS-X7 Speaker, $299.99.

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Apps fit for the jolly old man

Did you buy all your presents? Are you on budget? Do you know what you are going to cook for Christmas dinner? Prepare for the holidays with a little help from your tablet and smartphone. Here are the apps you need to make sure you stay on top of things this holiday season:

The Christmas List, $1.99
iOS
This app may be the only one you need to get ready for the holidays. Track the gifts you need to purchase, who they are for, and your budgets all within this one app. You can also keep track of the status of each gift, whether they are shipped, wrapped, or received.

Canada Post, free
iOS, Android
If you ship presents or parcels, you will find this app useful. Find a post office, learn shipping rates and track parcels leading up to the holidays. The app also lets you create customized stamps from the photos you have on your smartphone or tablet.

Canada Post

How to Cook Everything, $9.99
iOS
Were you strong-armed into making holiday dinner for the family. But the problem is you have never cooked a turkey before. Problem solved with this handy app. There are more than 2,000 recipes, plus 400 step-by-step illustrated cooking guides for making the most popular holiday dishes.

MIKE YAWNEY/FOR METRO

Gift ideas for the foodie in your life

In the kitchen. Go big — why not get them something that's been on their wish list for years

RICK MCGINNIS
For Metro

Buying a gift for a foodie isn't terribly different from trying to find a Christmas present for your rich friend or relative — it's not what to get them, but what they don't have that's the problem.

For most foodies, eating out isn't nearly as much fun as eating in, and, as a result, their kitchens are usually stuffed to bursting with double boilers and mandolins and fish poachers.

The best option is to go big — to buy them that high-end item that's been on their wish list for years. Right now, that would probably be a sous vide. The tide has finally receded on the whole molecular gastronomy craze, but it's left behind a few vital techniques, prime among which is cooking with a sous vide — sealing meat or fish in a vacuum bag and immersing it in a bath of hot water, maintained at a constant but relatively low temperature and circulated for a long time.

The Rolls Royce of sous vide machines is the **Polyscience Professional Immersion Circulator**, which clamps on to the side of your stock pot or deep tray and maintains up to eight gallons of water at a perfectly steady temperature for hours. It's exclusive to Williams-Sonoma and sells for $795.95 US on its website.

A more budget-oriented sous vide machine is the **Caso Sous Vide Center**, which looks like a bread maker and does the same job as the Polyscience in a smaller package tailored for family meals and not a full restaurant. It's available for as little as $369 at cedarlaneculinary.ca, which also offers a sous vide package that includes a vacuum sealer, two rolls of vacuum bags and a cookbook for $469.

Another thing about foodies is that they can never have too many cookbooks, and one of the bestsellers of the season is **Heritage by Sean Brock**, the Charleston, S.C.-based chef that chef and TV personality Anthony Bourdain called "one of the most important chefs in America."

Beautifully illustrated with photos of food, produce and Brock's hometown, it includes recipes for everything from Hoppin' John — that most essential of southern comfort foods — to more ambitious dishes like chilled fennel bisque with citrus-cured scallops and almond oil. ($24 at amazon.ca.)

People have rediscovered their ovens lately as well — it must be the long winters — so your foodie friends might want to start upgrading their battered old tins and pans with something really nice, like a set of **Le Creuset bakeware**. Available in a range of colours, this revered line of French cookware brings a welcome note of Julia Child into any lab-like, stainless steel-filled modern kitchen.

Another piece of kitchenware undergoing a renaissance is the flat griddle, which requires a sympathetic cooktop and a bit of storage space, but will let you sear, sauté and fry more than one ingredient at a time. Griddles that straddle two burners on a stove are the most useful, and are made by everyone from Calphalon to Le Creuset to Lodge. **All-Clad's double-burner griddle** is nice and heavy, and available from the Bay for $180. If you don't have a stove that happily makes space for one, All-Clad also makes a **standalone electric model with a drip pan**, $360 at the Bay.

Finally, it's nice to have something to cook. The paleo diet has put proteins at the centre of plates, but instead of big slabs of meat, smart cooks are setting smaller cuts on top of beds of legumes to showcase two kinds of protein. U.S. food website markethallfoods.com features a fine range of dried beans, from a bag of **Rancho Gordo's flageolet beans** ($8.50 US) to **black valentine beans from Community Grains** ($7 US) to **fine French puy lentils** ($13 US). Stuff a few of these into stockings or a gift box with baking dishes or saucepans and point foodie friends toward the kitchen.

All-Clad's electric griddle, $360 at the Hudson Bay Company, thebay.com.

Caso Sous Vide Center, from $369 at Cedarlane Culinary, cedarlaneculinary.ca.

Consider yourself lucky if you are shopping for a food lover. With so much to choose from, finding the perfect gift is easy. SHUTTERSTOCK

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MLS

Whitecaps re-sign midfielder Nicolas Mezquida

Earlier in the week, the Vancouver Whitecaps officially declined the option on Nicolas Mezquida's contract, then protected him midway through the MLS expansion draft on Wednesday.

On Thursday — yes, it's been a busy week — the Whitecaps re-signed the 22-year-old Mezquida. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The Vancouver club originally picked up Mezquida in February, prior to the start of the season, in a transfer from Boston River in Uruguay.

"We are excited to have Nicolas returning for his second season with the club," said Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson in a statement.

"Nicolas is a very talented player, a fantastic teammate who brings a positive frame of mind, and he works exceptionally hard each and every day. We are confident Nicolas will excel and play an important part for us in 2015."

An attacking midfielder, Mezquida started four times last season for Vancouver. He scored twice in 14 matches.

Mezquida arrived in Vancouver from Uruguay with fellow attacking midfielder Sebastian Fernandez, who joined the Whitecaps on a one-year loan.

The Whitecaps declined Fernadez's option in his contract, with Robinson saying it's likely he'll sign somewhere in South America.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Canucks' second line in midst of a slump

NHL. Bonino, Higgins, Burrows will look to contribute in snapping three-game losing skid

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

For Vancouver Canucks winger Chris Higgins, Thursday's trip to BC Children's Hospital brought about a new appreciation.

"For me, this year, it's hitting a little more close to home," said Higgins.

"My fiancée and myself are expecting our first child here, so it makes you appreciate what the workers are doing for these kids and the families. It is a nice time of year to be around them."

Players toured the hospital, signing autographs, posing for pictures and visiting with children and families, bringing smiles to the youngsters they met.

It's an annual visit for the Canucks, who returned to Vancouver following a seven-game road trip.

"Kind of puts into perspective the bumps and bruises we get along the road are pretty trivial," said forward Nick Bonino, who visited kids at the children's hospital in Orange County when he played in Anaheim.

The conversation does gradually shift to hockey. The Canucks host the New York Rangers on Saturday.

It's the start of a four-game homestand at Rogers Arena.

One of the growing storylines surrounding the Canucks after three consecutive losses, is the play and lack of production from the second line — Bonino, Higgins and Alex Burrows.

Bonino hasn't scored in 15 straight games. Higgins and Burrows haven't had a point in the last six games.

Bonino, in particular, is under the microscope.

General manager Jim Benning made the move to acquire Bonino, along with defenceman Luca Sbisa and the 24th and 85th overall picks in the 2014 NHL Draft, for Ryan Kesler, who wanted out of Vancouver.

After heightening expectations thanks to an impressive start to the season — scoring seven goals and 12 points in the first 14 games — the 26-year-old Bonino hasn't scored in more than a month.

"I don't know who is making a big deal out of it. No one on the team is and I'm not," said Bonino. "Every line is going to go through some ups and downs and I'll do what I can to get out of it."

Canucks forward Chris Higgins looks to get a shot off against Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier in Toronto on Dec. 6. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	PIM
Nick Bonino	29	7	12	19	6	10
Chris Higgins	29	5	10	15	5	6
Alex Burrows	24	6	5	11	2	20

4 SPORTS

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Canada's top athlete

Humphries wins Lou Marsh Trophy

Kaillie Humphries didn't have much time to celebrate.

Moments after learning she had won the 2014 Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete, the 29-year-old bobsled pilot was off to her final practice session ahead of this weekend's season-opening World Cup race.

"Trying to be focused on both of these runs today was probably one of my biggest challenges I've had so far this year," Humphries said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

So far, Canucks are a pleasant surprise

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Hmm. Now what?

By any account, the first third of the Vancouver Canucks' season has been a resounding success. More so when compared to last year's John Tortorella debacle.

If I told you in September we could magically place the team three points out of first place in the Pacific Division, with an 18-9-2 record and a five-point cushion for a playoff spot, you'd have taken that in a heartbeat, right?

Alas, the Canucks find themselves in their first (minor) quagmire of the season.

They triumphed last Thursday with a shutout win in Pittsburgh but followed it with a disastrous trip through Eastern Canada, losing to Toronto, then Ottawa (after blowing a three-goal lead), then Montreal. They were outscored 12-6 over that span.

There are two ways to look at the situation.

Glass half full: this was the end of a seven-game road trip. Vancouver went 3-3-1. The Canucks are battling through without Dan Hamhuis. They brought more than enough points back with them. They were simply tired, as Ryan Miller let on after the Montreal defeat.

Glass half empty: Miller has the 34th-best save percentage in the NHL among 45 qualifying goalies. He has a patchwork defence in front of him, allowing too many breakdowns at inopportune times. The Canucks' secondary scoring from the likes of Nick Bonino has evaporated.

What should coach Willie Desjardins, GM Jim Benning and president Trevor Linden make of what they've seen over the last week?

Canucks president Trevor Linden, left, and general manager Jim Benning. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Corsi close

16

Vancouver ranks 16th this season in Corsi close after 29 games. That puts them in the middle of the pack in the possession game. They sit ninth in the NHL in actual points, so their recent skid may simply be a regression based on the advanced stats.

They shouldn't panic, as the team has four days between games and gets its next four at home.

They should also understand Vancouver wasn't about to become a first-place team overnight.

The Canucks projected to be more of a bubble team.

They may simply be regressing toward their true identity.

That said, if the Canucks keep struggling, the brass shouldn't roll over and die.

This team showed too much potential in the season's opening leg. Enough so that the playoffs are well within reach.

If the Canucks' mini-slump becomes a full-fledged skid after their homestand, it may be time to worry.

That could mean exploring a trade for a defenceman or shipping out a veteran forward who may just need a change of scenery.

Paging Alexandre Burrows.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no need to feel threatened by someone whose power exceeds yours. According to the planets they don't see you as a rival and therefore wish you no harm.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you want to get ahead be less thin-skinned. The kind of people who can make things happen for you are not the kind of people who worry about whose egos they might bruise.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may feel worn out after the excitement of the past few days but don't switch off because there are still important things that need to be done.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Sometimes you can be too trusting and the planets warn if you believe what a colleague tells today it will cost you. Either they're deceiving you or someone is deceiving you both.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Use your time and energy wisely today. It does not matter how much work you have to get through before the weekend. Get it right the first time.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Yes, there are things going on behind the scenes that you know little about . According to the planets you have nothing to fear and lots to look forward to.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you find it hard to make up your mind today, ask someone you trust. Even if you disagree with them and do the exact opposite of what they suggest you'll still be doing something.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to tie up a number of loose ends today if you are to get the full benefit of what occurs over the weekend.

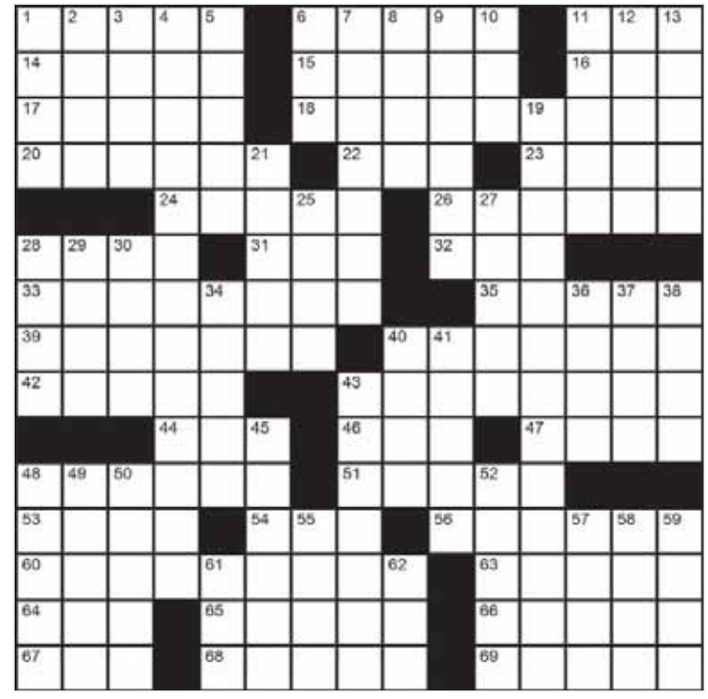
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There may be times when you think that your lucky streak has come to an end but it's not over yet. The only thing that might hold you back is if you allow negative thoughts to take root.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be conservative but that does not mean you cannot change your ways and if you feel that a change is necessary you must make it immediately.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will hear something to your advantage today but because you were not supposed to know you may be reluctant to make use of it. If others were stupid enough to let it slip that's their problem, not yours.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You don't have to pretend that a task comes easy to you when it is a struggle. No one expects you to get it right the first time. Do your best and be pleased.

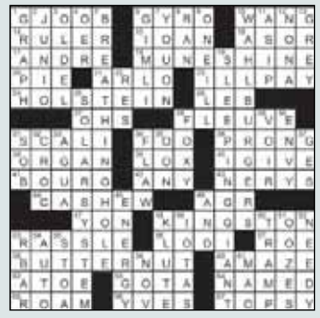
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Splash
6. Tolerate
11. Comedian Louis, et al.
14. Jeweller's eye piece
15. Discourage
16. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
17. Eight-based
18. "First Blood" (1982) role: 2 wds.
20. Sarajevo's locale
22. Hot drink
23. Scornful look
24. "A merry heart __ good like a medicine..." - Proverbs
26. Bequest
28. Pet shelter gr.
31. Old French coin
32. Swearing-in words
33. Inuit sled
35. Harry Potter: Severus' surname
39. Nut kind
40. Lawn sport
42. Judge's gig
43. Frank Zappa's actress/writer daughter: 2 wds.
44. Mr. Bean, et al.
46. Swerve
47. "__ _ Wonderful Life" (1946)
48. Gutsy
51. Harsh
53. Succulent plant
54. Dunk
56. Celebrity chef Nigella
60. Town in Fraser Canyon in British Columbia; or, Cheers of "Cheers": 2 wds.
63. Crooner Pat
64. Fair-hiring letters
65. Apply another cold pack
66. Ontario: __ Peninsula
67. '70s records
68. "Two If __ __" (1996)
69. Stagnates

Down
1. Neatnik opposite
2. Little Eva's "The __-Motion"
3. Loopholes
4. Soul Boys of the Western World is the name of the new documentary film, as well as upcoming 2015 tour, of this British band: 2 wds.
5. Racecar driver Mr. Castroneves
6. Li'l modifier
7. Extinct culture of Newfoundland
8. _, __ Jury (Mickey Spillane novel)
9. 2015 Yukon __ (GMC vehicle)
10. Bungle
11. "Along __ _ Spider" (2001)
12. 'Quebec' part of Quebec City as it was known
13. Written work
19. The variant spelling for #12-Down's answer is an __ __ meaning 'narrowing of the river'
21. Pantheon of Norse gods
25. "Hop __ __!" (Move!)
27. Alberta town
28. House size meas.: 2 wds.
29. Match
30. Gladiator's 951
34. Recounts
36. Family member
37. Shar-__ (Some dogs)
38. Singer Ms. James
40. Wintertime garment
41. Spur's small spiked wheel
43. Social networking site
45. Locale on Cape Breton Island
48. Matte __ (Toronto-born television host)
49. "That threw me for _ __!"
50. Doesn't win
52. Synagogue spiritual leader
55. Wading bird
57. Psyche
58. Formerly
59. Social pages words
61. Sphere
62. Actor Stephen

Yesterday's Crossword

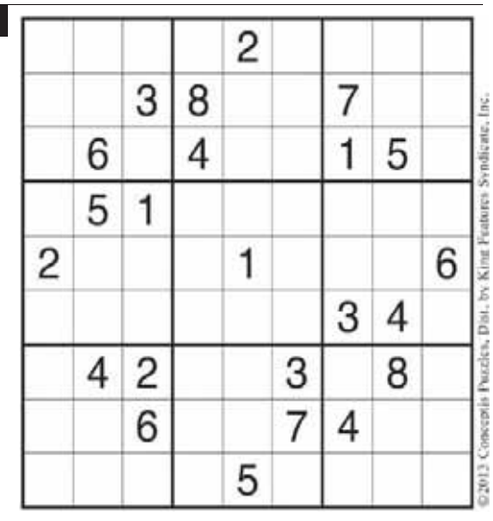


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	9	6	3	2	7	8	5
6	3	5	7	8	1	9	4	2
8	2	7	4	9	5	3	6	1
5	9	1	8	2	4	6	3	7
3	4	2	1	7	6	5	9	8
7	8	6	3	5	9	1	2	4
1	6	8	5	4	3	2	7	9
9	5	4	2	6	7	8	1	3
2	7	3	9	1	8	4	5	6

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Ski & Snow Getaways

Big White 2 Nights + Ski

from **$479** pp

INCLUDES ski-in, ski-out accom amidst the Monashee Mountains, 2-day lift tickets to ski Big White, roundtrip deluxe bus transportation from Vancouver, party at Snowshoe Sam's and a dedicated tour guide for the duration of the trip. **BONUS** $50 discount included if booked by December 19.

Sun Peaks Family Day Long Weekend
2 Nights 4-Star + Ski from $539pp
INCLUDES 4-star accom in the heart of the village, 2-day lift ticket to ski Sun Peaks, roundtrip deluxe bus transportation from Vancouver, hosted apres ski event and a dedicated tour guide for the duration of the trip.

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*Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. All advertised prices include taxes & fees. Air only prices are per person for return travel unless otherwise stated. Package, cruise, tour, rail & hotel prices are per person, based on double occupancy for total length of stay unless otherwise stated. All-inclusive vacations include air. pp=per person. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ◊Price is per person for quad occupancy (2 adults & 2 kids ages 2-17) for total length of stay unless otherwise stated. *Conditions apply. For full terms and conditions please speak with a Flight Centre Travel Consultant or visit flightcentre.ca/flights/red-label-fares. ΔConditions apply. For full terms & conditions please speak with a Flight Centre travel consultant or visit flightcentre.ca/travel-deals. ΩLimit one (1) onboard credit per stateroom for all cabin categories on exact itinerary advertised, offer can be withdrawn or changed at anytime. ±Conditions apply. For full terms and conditions please speak with a Flight Centre travel consultant or visit flightcentre.ca/travel-deals/consumer-incentive. †We will beat any written quoted airfare by $1 and give you a $20 voucher for future travel. "Fly Free" offer applies only where all "Lowest Airfare Guarantee" criteria are met but Flight Centre does not beat quoted price. Additional important conditions apply. For full terms and conditions visit flightcentre.ca/lowestairfareguarantee-flyfree. BC REG: #HO2790*